United Nations S/PV.5554

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5554th meeting

Wednesday, 25 October 2006, 12.25 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Oshima	(Japan)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Desmoures
	China	Mr. Liu Zhenmin
	Congo	Mr. Biabaroh-Iboro
	Denmark	Mr. Faaborg-Andersen
	France	Mr. Lacroix
	Ghana	Nana Effah-Apenteng
	Greece	Mrs. Papadopoulou
	Peru	Mr. Ruiz Rosas
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Thani
	Russian Federation	Mr. Shcherbak
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Emyr Jones Parry
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Manongi
	United States of America	Ms. Wolcott Sanders

Agenda

The situation in Burundi

Seventh report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Burundi (S/2006/429 and Add.1)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

06-58530 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 12.25 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Burundi

Seventh report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Burundi (S/2006/429 and Add.1)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Burundi, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Ntakirutimana (Burundi) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations. Members of the Council have before them document S/2006/429 and Addendum 1, which contains the text of the seventh report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Burundi. Members of the Council also have before them document S/2006/839, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, China, Congo, Denmark, France, Ghana, Greece, Japan, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1719 (2006).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5555

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 October 2006

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 5555th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 25 October 2006, at 3 p.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"At its 5555th meeting, held in private on 25 October 2006, the Security Council considered the item entitled 'The situation in Côte d'Ivoire'.

"The President, with the consent of the Council, invited the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to participate in the consideration of the item without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

"In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, the President, with the consent of the Council, extended an invitation under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure to His Excellency Mr. Said Djinnit, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union.

"The members of the Council heard a briefing by His Excellency Mr. Djinnit.

"The members of the Council heard a statement by His Excellency Mr. Youssouf Bakayoko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire."

06-58608 (E) 251006

United Nations S/PV.5556

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5556th meeting

Thursday, 26 October 2006, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Oshima	(Japan)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Mayoral
	China	Mr. Liu Zhenmin
	Congo	Mr. Gayama
	Denmark	Ms. Løj
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Nana Effah-Apenteng
	Greece	Mrs. Papadopoulou
	Peru	Mr. Voto-Bernales
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Qahtani
	Russian Federation	Mr. Rogachev
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Emyr Jones Parry
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Manongi
	United States of America	Mr. Brencick

Agenda

Women and peace and security

Report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security (S/2006/770)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

06-58727 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Women and peace and security

Report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security (S/2006/770)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Guatemala, Guinea, Iceland, Indonesia, Israel, Kenya, Lesotho, Myanmar, the Netherlands, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden and Uganda, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, the representatives of the aforementioned countries took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, the Security Council has extended invitations under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Ms. Rachel Mayanja, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Ms. Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, and Ms. Carolyn McAskie, Assistant Secretary-General in the Peacebuilding Support Office.

It is so decided.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend invitations under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Ms. Christine Mitutumbwe, Coordinator of the Dushirehamwe Association, and Ms. Maria Dias, President of the Rede Feto.

It is so decided.

I invite Ms. Mitutumbwe and Ms. Dias to take the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations. Members of the Council have before them document S/2006/770, containing the report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security. I should like to draw the attention of the members to document S/2006/793, containing a letter dated 4 October 2006 from Japan addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a concept paper for this meeting.

In accordance with the understanding reached among Council members, I wish to remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than four minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. Delegations with lengthy statements are kindly requested to circulate their texts in writing and to deliver a condensed version when speaking in the Chamber.

By way of introduction, I would like to say that it is a particular pleasure for me to open the debate today to discuss the implementation of the important resolution, resolution 1325 (2000). Our theme is the roles of women in the consolidation of peace.

I wish to convey to our British colleague, Ambassador Sir Emyr Jones Parry, and other colleagues from the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom our appreciation for their dedication and professionalism in organizing the Arria formula meeting held yesterday. It was valuable for Council members and other concerned people to gain greater insight into the challenges and the lessons learned by hearing the voices of real experience on the ground as expressed by the representatives of civil society. We hope to intensify the efforts in further implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) with the cooperation and partnership of civil society.

Finally, I would like to thank all speakers in advance. I can assure them that their observations and

recommendations will be well received and will be a subject for future reflection in the Council.

I now give the floor to Ms. Rachel Mayanja, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women.

Ms. Mayanja: It is a privilege to address the Council at this open debate and to introduce the report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security (S/2006/770). Let me begin by expressing gratitude to you, Mr. President, for convening this crucially important meeting on the roles of women in the consolidation of peace. I am also deeply heartened by the Council's continued commitment to the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

The Council has before it the report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security, prepared in response to the request of the Council contained in its presidential statement S/PRST/2005/52. The report contains a comprehensive and candid assessment of the first eight months of carrying out the System-wide Action Plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), in support of activities and commitments by Governments and civil society. The assessment identifies progress and challenges in the implementation of the Plan and offers measures to redress the shortcomings. The Plan has proved to be a useful tool for strengthened inter-agency coordination.

The consolidation of peace is an opportunity to redress grievances and problems that led to conflict in the first place. It holds the promise of establishing equality in a democratic environment and reforming institutions in ways that enable women to take full advantage of opportunities presented through the restoration of peace. Yet, the past year has demonstrated that our collective efforts to ensure equal participation by women in the consolidation of peace have thus far generally fallen short of what is required. From the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the Sudan, and from Somalia to Timor Leste, women continue to be exposed to violence or to be targeted by parties to a conflict, as well as to be marginalized in formal processes, in particular as regards issues of war and peace.

It is axiomatic that States, in particular those emerging from conflict situations, and their Governments have a vested interest in maintaining peace and security, and hence in bringing about the political reorganization of society and establishing credible institutions that can result in human security for all, in particular for women and girls. However, it is no secret that, even with political will at the top and pressure from women's groups below, many Governments are generally hesitant to challenge pre-conflict societal values and norms that are often deeply patriarchal and wedded to customary practices. To overcome that challenge, the following four conditions should be met.

First, the international community should summon all possible political will in order to meet its commitments to women in the realm of peace and security. Secondly, at the national level, Governments should establish clear accountability systems for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). Thirdly, the Security Council should provide more effective leadership to monitor progress in the implementation in the field and should encourage States to do more. And finally, States and United Nations entities should allocate sufficient resources and capacities for the national implementation of the resolution.

A frank and constructive discussion on how to meet those and other challenges related to national implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) was held on 23 October. It underlined the critical importance of national implementation as the key to achieving sustainable peace and the equal participation of women in peace processes. Within that framework, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women last month released "Securing equality, engendering peace: a guide to policy and planning on women, peace and security".

The full and effective implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) will require all the will and creativity the international community can muster. We can succeed in achieving sustainable peace if we — Member States, United Nations entities and civil society — put our minds to it and use the tools, resources and knowledge at our disposal to fully empower women. For its part, the United Nations will remain a strong partner for Member States and civil society. I look forward to working with everyone in that quest.

The President: I thank Ms. Mayanja for her statement.

I now give the floor to Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

Mr. Guéhenno (*spoke in French*): In the year since I briefed the Council on the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to implement resolution 1325 (2000), we witnessed the historic election in Liberia of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Africa's first woman head of State. That election has been a source of hope and inspiration to many women and girls in Africa and beyond. In the same period, Liberia adopted a law on rape to combat gender-based violence; the women of Sierra Leone succeeded in having laws adopted in the areas of human trafficking, civil inheritance rights and property rights; and the women of Timor-Leste submitted to parliament a draft law on domestic violence. We should pay tribute to all the women in those countries for their tangible efforts to translate the goals of resolution 1325 (2000) into reality. We in the international community have a duty to extend to them our full support.

Despite those positive developments, challenges and assaults on women's rights and gender equality continue to be rife in every post-conflict situation. I would like today to highlight three priority issues facing peacekeeping missions as they endeavour to provide support for women's participation in transitional processes and beyond. Those issues require the urgent attention of the Council.

First is the problem of insecurity, a threat which many women continue to experience even after the guns have fallen silent. In many societies violence continues to be used as a way to control the movement and actions of women and girls as they work to rebuild their homes and communities. In Afghanistan, for example, attacks on schools put the lives of girls at risk when they attempt to exercise their basic right to education. In Darfur, women and girls are raped when they go to find firewood for cooking and heating. In Liberia more than 40 per cent of women and girls surveyed have been the victims of sexual violence. In the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo over 12,000 rapes of women and girls have been reported in the last six months.

As we know, rape has long-lasting consequences for women. Not only does it have very negative effects on their health and psychological well-being, it also places them at greater risk of contracting the AIDS virus, stigmatizes them socially and limits their freedom of movement — which affects their ability to fulfil their frequent role as household breadwinners, a responsibility that many women in post-conflict situations must often bear on their own. The persistence of sexual violence is a basic indicator of our failure to provide adequate security to human communities in post-conflict situations.

The second priority — beyond the initial step of supporting the participation of women in electoral processes — entails the need for us to work to ensure sustained support for women in the political arena in order that they may be part of the decision-making process. To date, the most notable successes in electing women to political office have taken place in situations where constitutional guarantees have been put in place establishing quotas regarding the participation of women. In that regard, I should like to refer to the cases of Burundi and Afghanistan. No quota system was in place for the most recent elections in Haiti, and only five women won elective office. In Liberia only 14 of the 94 seats in the legislature were won by women, while in the Democratic Republic of the Congo women constitute only 8 per cent of the new legislature. It is not enough to ensure that women are elected. Their election — and women make up 30 per cent of the Assembly in Burundi and 25 per cent of Afghanistan's lower house — is a significant success, but only the very first step in a lengthy process to bring women into positions of responsibility. Let us not forget that, in Timor-Leste, four female parliamentarians had to leave office three months after their election in 2002 because of the chauvinism they faced and the difficulty of surviving in an environment hostile to them in Parliament. Newly elected women must be supported by their peers to help them establish themselves and resist the pressures that may be brought to bear against their full exercise of their parliamentary activities.

The third priority is to amend and reform discriminatory laws that undermine equality of rights so as to enable the effective participation of women in the peacebuilding process. In Burundi, the southern Sudan and Côte d'Ivoire, women are unable to inherit land. Even when such rights are guaranteed by law, as they are in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the implementation of the law is often sporadic. That is why, for many widows and female heads of household, access to land is an essential precondition of economic equality and of their ability to emerge from the desperate economic situation of many post-conflict societies. We must therefore continue to support all legislative efforts to adopt national and customary

legislation to guarantee effective equality of rights for women and girls in terms of access to resources and economic rights.

(*spoke in English*)

I want now to turn to our collective responsibilities. My Department has adopted a set of very concrete strategies to support implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). We have developed a comprehensive action plan whose implementation is being monitored by my senior management team. We are making policy guidance and training tools available to peacekeepers and Member States. We have developed operational guidelines for our mission personnel to enable them to translate resolution 1325 (2000) into practice, and we have established gender components in missions and at Headquarters to oversee that work. We continue to invest in efforts to ensure that our peacekeepers adhere to the highest levels of professional conduct and discipline. As part of that process, on 4 December in New York we will be convening a high-level conference on sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations and non-governmental organization personnel to take stock of achievements to date and challenges in stemming the problem.

Notwithstanding those necessary and important foundation blocks, real gaps remain in our implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). In seeking to transform our working culture, there are undoubtedly pockets of resistance. We have made progress, but some of our personnel have yet to understand their own responsibility for implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) — that it is not the sole responsibility of gender advisers, nor can it be just outsourced to our United Nations partners. I also recognize the need to build a critical mass of male champions to advocate and support the translation of our commitments to gender equality into practice. In that regard, I believe that my department needs a senior male envoy to support our political advocacy efforts.

Clearly, my Department can do better to implement resolution 1325 (2000) and we are stepping up our efforts to do so. Our Action Plan, and a policy directive that I shall issue in the coming days to my Department and all missions, provide the framework to guide our future efforts. We count on all the Member States to provide the support and resources required to fully implement the directive.

Beyond the actions of my Department, some of the outstanding challenges can best be addressed through partnerships with Member States and our broader United Nations family. For example, our predominantly male profile in peacekeeping undermines the credibility of our efforts to lead by example in the host countries in which we are engaged. We need Member States to nominate more women candidates for senior civilian positions in missions.

Fewer than 2 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively, of our military and police personnel are women, yet our peacekeepers are increasingly required to interact with women and men in the host country for purposes of information gathering, screening during disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, and monitoring elections processes, amongst other things. To engage more effectively with the local population, a greater number of women peacekeepers must be deployed. That is an operational imperative.

We also recognize the need for stronger partnership with United Nations agencies to sustain the investments of peacekeeping missions during the transitional period. Our experiences from Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste have highlighted the need for a smooth transitioning of gender-related programmes to the United Nations country team, following the completion of a peacekeeping mandate. Otherwise, we risk creating a programmatic gap that can unravel the modest gains made by peacekeeping missions.

Oftentimes, the only full-time and robust capacity to support gender-related activities in the countries in which we are engaged resides in the peacekeeping mission. Our United Nations partners need to be on the ground from the very beginning with the capacities and resources required to support women in the wide range of areas that fall beyond the scope and mandate of peacekeeping missions.

Finally, we must continue to invest resources in creating a stable and secure environment that will allow women to restore dignity, normalcy and hope to their lives in the post-conflict period. Programmes for women's economic and political empowerment and to support the education of girls can be sustained only under conditions of security. That means that the Member States must meet their obligations to contribute sufficient troops to enable our peacekeeping operations to deliver that much-needed security. I

count on the Security Council's support and partnership in that process.

The President: I give the floor to the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

Ms. Heyzer: Thank you, Sir, for the honour of addressing the Security Council.

The consolidation of peace is an uncertain enterprise. It is one thing to agree to a ceasefire, and quite another to move from there to a point at which societies can resolve conflicts through inclusive governance without reverting to armed combat. From our work in over 20 conflict-affected countries, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) has learned what is needed to implement resolution 1325 (2000) effectively in the consolidation of peace. Let me mention three points.

First, peacebuilding efforts must ensure women's physical and economic security. In peacemaking and peacebuilding, the urgent often drives out the important. The urgent is the need to stop the fighting, but parties to the conflict are not the same as parties to the peace. Peacebuilding requires that all parties with an interest in peace be engaged in negotiating a new social contract, building the institutions of a new society, and re-establishing livelihoods.

Women are a crucial resource in this process. Peace agreements, early recovery and post-conflict governance do better when women are involved. Women make a difference in part because they adopt a more inclusive approach to peace and security and address key social and economic issues that provide the foundations of sustainable peace and would otherwise be ignored. The question before us today is not only what women can bring to peace consolidation but also what peacebuilding can do to promote women's human rights and gender equality — transforming social structures so that they do not reproduce the exclusion and marginalization that underlie conflict.

Women know the costs of war: what it means to be subject to sexual violence designed to destroy their communities, what it means to be displaced, to flee their homes and property, to be excluded from public life and regarded as less than full citizens. The consolidation of peace must include putting an end to impunity for sexual violence and raising the political and economic costs for those who engage in it, ensuring that they are not given the rewards of power and high-profile jobs as part of negotiated peace.

Two of women's most urgent needs are physical safety and economic security. Efforts to engage women in the public sphere will not succeed if women risk continued violence for taking on public roles, and they cannot be expected to be effective public actors if they have no source of livelihood. What we at UNIFEM are seeing on the ground — in Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia — is that the public space for women in those countries is, in fact, shrinking. Women are becoming assassination targets when they dare defend women's rights, and everywhere there is evidence that violence is brought into homes and communities after conflicts have ended, as young men return with guns, and the social norms that protect women remain broken.

In all of the conflict areas where we have worked, we have witnessed women's willingness to take risks — reaching across borders, organizing to support the kind of dialogue that leads to peacemaking and defying threats to their security. But we cannot rely on the bravery of women: systems must be put in place. In the consolidation of peace, the international community must invest in reforming the security sector so as to ensure the safety of women, particularly where armies or police have been a source of the violence they experience.

In Rwanda, after the police said that they could not protect women because they lacked the vehicles for rapid response, we at UNIFEM organized an inter-agency response to set up specialized gender desks in police stations and to provide them with training and hotlines, as well as motorcycles to reach women in remote districts.

Secondly, sustainable peace requires real justice for women. To consolidate peace, there must be justice for women in accordance with international human rights standards. That means striking down all laws that continue to discriminate against women, strengthening rule of law organizations to implement them, and empowering women to access those organizations.

Too often, in conflict-affected countries, we see that laws on compensation for victims do not include compensation for rape, which is still regarded as a minor crime. I have just returned from Kosovo with our goodwill ambassador, Ms. Nicole Kidman, where

we met with women who had been raped during the conflict. They feel that they have undergone a double violation as they seek justice, both locally and from the international system, which have promised to help them but have never delivered. If we are serious about ensuring justice, we must do more to provide training for judges and lawyers and provide support for witnesses, medical support, and compensation.

Family matters and personal status issues are typically left to customary and traditional legal systems, partly because they are seen as an inexpensive system of resolving conflict, and partly to buy the cooperation of traditional or tribal leaders by giving them control over personal and family matters. The result is honour crimes, the exchange of women to resolve inter-clan fights, the denial of women's inheritance rights. Justice for women cannot be done on the cheap, and women's rights cannot be bargained away for other political gains. Justice for women has to be featured as an integral and achievable part of any United Nations plan of assistance.

Thirdly, peace requires institutional change and stronger accountability systems. Women's engagement in the consolidation of peace requires that the institutions engaged in the rebuilding of the governance, justice, security and economic systems have the will and the capacity to respond to women's needs, and that women take leadership roles in influencing these processes.

We have learned that, the earlier women are recognized as peace agents and engaged in the process of peace, the more they are seen as legitimate actors. That is why today in Uganda, UNIFEM is supporting the launch of a peace caravan, with women from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya and Uganda, to demand that the international community respect resolution 1325 (2000) and include women in the Juba peace talks.

Some progress has been made in ensuring the inclusion of women in the political realm. A variety of quota systems have been put in place in Iraq, Burundi, Rwanda and elsewhere and have resulted in record numbers of women in the political sphere. But quotas alone will not ensure effective participation.

This is not just a problem of the capacities of women. It is about obstacles to gender equality in the institutions that shape the ways choices are made, resources allocated, and policies implemented. Three changes are critical to bringing about greater accountability. These include top-level guidelines that ensure that women's rights are a key element of institutional work; incentive systems to reward efforts to address women's needs; and measures to include the issue of gender equality in individual work plans as well as in performance reviews.

Although more women have been brought into the military and police forces, this is still a token effort. Appointments of women to the top levels of facilitation teams and peacekeeping missions are still rare. UNIFEM and other rights activists must negotiate anew each time to bring women to peace talks or include women's priorities in needs assessments. Even when we have succeeded, we find that resources have not been allocated to meet these priorities.

In conclusion, if we want to consolidate peace, we must stop trying to reward those who are most destructive and engage those who advocate peaceful solutions. A famous French philosopher said:

> "Women are not wrong when they decline to accept the rules laid down for them, since the men make those rules without consulting them".

One way of understanding the consolidation of peace is as a massive national effort to remake the rules of governance, justice, security and economic activity so as to eliminate the causes of conflict and distrust. For women of all social groups, this opportunity to participate in the rebuilding of the rules cannot be missed. Only then will we have peace under the laws of justice.

The President: I give the floor to Ms. Carolyn McAskie, Assistant Secretary-General and head of the Peacebuilding Support Office.

Ms. McAskie: I am very pleased indeed to participate in the Council's deliberations today on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. As a recently returned Special Representative of the Secretary-General in a peacekeeping mission, and now in my current role as head of the new Peacebuilding Support Office, that landmark resolution has had direct relevance for my work.

The focus of my presentation this morning will be on the role of the newly established Peacebuilding Commission and on its support office, but I would also like to make reference to my experience as a

peacekeeper. There is no doubt that the existence of resolution 1325 (2000) made an appreciable difference to our peacekeeping operations on the ground.

The existence of a gender adviser in the United Nations Operation in Burundi, along with strong leadership from mission management and Headquarters management, had a direct impact on our work, for example, in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), in addressing the issues of women associated with armed combat, in elections, in addressing the need to support the commitments to 30 per cent targets for women in parliament and in addressing human rights issues for women. The absence of a dedicated gender adviser within the United Nations country team, however, gave us the example of how progress lags behind when special efforts are not made to ensure that development programmes are sufficiently gender sensitive. As this debate demonstrates, we are not ready to assume that women's issues will automatically be included. Special measures continue to be required.

Gender mainstreaming in the area of peacebuilding, and in particular in the work of the Peacebuilding Commission, has been recognized by Member States in various resolutions. The resolutions establishing the Commission that were adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly called on the Commission to integrate a gender perspective into its work and encouraged the Commission to consult with civil society, including women's organizations engaged in peacebuilding. In the follow-up to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure that in supporting the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Support Office should integrate a gender perspective in all aspects of its work, taking into account resolution 1325 (2000).

Protecting and empowering women in countries making the transition from violent conflict to lasting peace will require a deep understanding of gender discrimination. When we speak of the foundations for sustainable peace and development, women — as decision makers, as productive members of society, as caretakers and as heads of households — must be recognized as one of the pillars of that society. In achieving lasting peace beyond the mere absence of violence, we must understand the social and political fabric that makes up societies and forms the basis of communities. This requires recognition, not only of women's key roles, but also of their work and potential as agents of change.

Members will note that the Commission itself is tasked with marshalling resources and proposing integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding. In doing so, it will focus on the reconstruction and institution-building efforts for countries under its consideration. It is also tasked with improving coordination, developing best practices to ensure predictable financing and sustaining the attention of the international community on countries emerging from conflict.

The Commission is examining ways in which it could benefit from civil society involvement in its deliberations. Civil society representatives participated in the country-specific meetings held on Burundi and Sierra Leone on 12 and 13 October respectively. Many Commission members favour more systematic involvement of civil society, including women's groups, in the work of the Commission. As such, we are exploring ways by which we can engage civil society in general, and women's organizations in particular, in supporting the process of peacebuilding.

The Commission's advisory role places it in a strong position to draw attention to critical peacebuilding challenges on the ground, including the special needs of women and girls, ensuring that space is created for women's active participation in political, economic and social life, and strengthening the protection of the rights of women against discrimination, violence and persecution. The Peacebuilding Commission can act as a key conduit for promoting practical actions in support of women's needs and for promoting gender equality. The Commission is a unique intergovernmental forum, focusing on specific country situations, and it therefore has a comparative advantage which will enable it to provide strategic and practical support to the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

The Commission can play an effective role in empowering actors on the ground to facilitate and strengthen the partnership between Governments and civil society, including women's groups. The Commission can help build confidence and pave the way for transparent and accountable governance, by helping newly formed Governments to understand the extent to which modern concepts of democracy are based on ongoing engagement with civil society.

To ensure that gender aspects and the provisions of resolution 1325 (2000) are taken into account in the work of the Commission, the Peacebuilding Support Office will have to play a vital role and provide the Commission with the analysis it needs to meet its commitments to gender mainstreaming. In this, we will be informed by the ongoing work of the United Nations and its partners at the field level and at Headquarters, including taking advantage of the available gender specific policies and data that have been developed by humanitarian and development organizations present at the field level.

The process, whether through the Commission or the Support Office, will work through existing field presences of the United Nations and Member States. Peacebuilding is not another layer of activity; it is all about ensuring that what we, whether the country itself or all its partners, are doing is geared to supporting the country in staying the course with a view to sustainable peace. This represents an unprecedented opportunity to improve on past practices. What better objective than for us to get it right this time on how we include women and end gender discrimination and gender victimization? The United Nations presence already on the ground is the instrument of the new United Nations commitments on peacebuilding. It must work in close collaboration with national authorities, but also with all internal and external parties to peacebuilding: donors, institutions, regional and subregional political actors, as well as local players. Resolution 1325 (2000) can and should inform this work by being one of the fundamental underpinnings of the strategic approach mandated in General Assembly resolution 60/180, creating the peacebuilding architecture.

Support to women emerging from conflict will also require the Commission's action in its role of resource mobilization for national peacebuilding plans. The Peacebuilding Support Office will play a role in developing effective resource-mobilization strategies which address the need for gender equality in peacebuilding.

The recently established Peacebuilding Fund will also be able to contribute in furthering the practical aims of resolution 1325 (2000). We must remember that the Fund, while generous, will be limited in its resources and should be seen as a catalyst to launch peacebuilding activities that will require more sustained resources. We will collaborate with partners at the field level, including national authorities, to ensure that funding for peacebuilding activities, such as that provided to national institutions and that aimed at strengthening national capacities to promote peaceful resolution of conflict, is responsive to the needs of women with a view to promoting gender equality.

Six years after the adoption of this landmark resolution, much has been done to recognize women's important role in countries affected by conflict. However, this debate recognizes that we still have a road to travel. We have a better understanding now of how conflicts have a disproportionate effect on women and girls. What we do not yet demonstrate is that in addressing the roots of conflict and in reversing its effects we need a similarly disproportionate effort to address those effects. This will require the implementation of the recommendations before the Council in the Secretary-General's report.

In closing, let me say that gender discrimination needs to be seen on a par with other forms of discrimination, and an international commitment and effort must be made to understand its roots and reverse its tragic effects. This will require leadership on the part of all of us, and accountability on the part of the United Nations system, both officials and Member States. The creation of new instruments dedicated to peacebuilding presents, as I said, an unprecedented opportunity, which must not be wasted, to do things differently. It provides a clean slate on which to re-write how we approach the needs of societies coming out of conflict. We cannot ignore the voices of the women from the time we broker peace onwards. Peacemaking is not just an exercise involving combatants; it must involve all of society. And that means women.

The Commission is taking an extremely practical and substantive approach to its work. It is determined to make a difference in real terms by working with Burundi and Sierra Leone, and it will factor in elements related to the needs of women and girls as they pertain to resolution 1325 (2000) to ensure that the sustained attention and resources of the international community are effectively utilized.

For the Commission to succeed, it must play a role in strengthening the understanding of the root causes of conflict and help countries identify the path to peace.

A key to successful peacebuilding is to work with national Governments to ensure that consultations take into account the elements contained in resolution 1325 (2000), including those dealing with conflict resolution, protection and respect for human rights, and to ensure that these are at the core of the Peacebuilding Commission's work. The challenge will be to bring all the resources and energies of society together to ensure the broadest possible approach, the most inclusive process and the most sustainable results.

Women have a key role to play in building peace — in their own right, and not only because they are disproportionately victimized or because they are seen more naturally as agents of peace. Women's key role must be recognized because societies where women participate fully generally enjoy more peace, more prosperity and more opportunity.

The President: I thank Ms. McAskie for her statement.

We have heard briefings from speakers from the four key relevant Offices and Departments.

I shall now call on members of the Council and other speakers who have requested to participate in the discussion under rule 37, in the order established in the list of speakers.

Mr. De La Sablière (France) (*spoke in French*): I would like to say how pleased I am, Mr. President, that you have taken the initiative to hold this public debate on women and peace and security. France fully aligns itself with the statement that will be made shortly by the Finnish presidency of the European Union.

Last year, as we marked the fifth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), we took stock for the first time of the implementation of that landmark text. That review enabled us to identify some progress, especially in terms of the role of women being taken into consideration in resolutions adopted by the Security Council. Unfortunately, it also revealed a number of gaps and unkept promises.

The question is whether we have made progress since then. The report (S/2006/770) submitted by the Secretary-General on the first year of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) provides us, I believe, with some useful indications. In this regard, I would like to warmly thank Ms. Rachel Mayanja, Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women.

The area where resolution 1325 (2000) has most changed things appears to be in the area of peacekeeping operations. We can see in this the result of several factors that have come together. The first of these factors is the more systematic integration of the issues of women and peace and security in the mandates given by the Security Council. The second is the relatively clear distribution of the roles of various actors in the framework of peacekeeping operations, which guarantees better coordination. The third is the extremely positive role now played by the gender advisers and gender focal points, who are present in all operations. Here, I would like again to congratulate Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno for the key role played by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in this area.

At the same time, I would like to endorse the condemnation contained in the presidential statement that the Council will adopt today, concerning cases of sexual abuse committed by peacekeeping personnel.

Do we have the means to move forward on other aspects, such as the protection of women against violence perpetrated in the context of armed conflicts and the participation of women in post-conflict phases?

With regard to the protection of women during conflict, the Darfur crisis and the situation in Ituri show that violence, especially sexual violence, against women unfortunately continues to be widespread, and often is carried out with impunity. The Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women (A/61/122/Add.1) highlights the gap between progress that we have made in the normative sphere — whether it be through Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), through progress in international humanitarian law or through the Statute of the International Criminal Court — and the continuing situation on the ground. This year, France and the Netherlands are submitting a draft resolution to the General Assembly one of whose elements will be a request to each United Nations organ to examine the means that it can employ to reduce this gap between norms and the reality on the ground.

We believe that the new Human Rights Council, which is now able to follow situations throughout the year and to meet on an emergency basis, has an important role to play in this area, whether by

responding to serious violations of women's rights, by addressing recommendations to other bodies or by supporting cooperation actions undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission should also enable us to move forward on the participation of women in the post-conflict and reconstruction phases. The need to integrate a gender perspective and to involve representatives of civil society, including women's organizations, was specifically mentioned in the mandate of the Peacebuilding Commission. The first country-specific meetings recently organized on Sierra Leone and on Burundi confirmed the validity of this reference and the centrality of the role of women in building sustainable peace.

What do we see as the priority areas for ensuring the full and complete participation of women in peacebuilding and reconstruction? First is the rehabilitation of victims, particularly victims of sexual violence. How can lasting peace be restored when women, who have already been victims of violence during the conflict phase, see themselves ostracized within their own communities? It is particularly important that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes take full account of the fate of women who have been associated — most often by force — with combatant groups.

The second area is the administration of justice. How can women express themselves and take part in civic life if they have to be in contact with their former tormentors and live in fear? How can we ask them to turn to the justice system if that system is synonymous with further humiliation, denial and potential reprisal? That is why the fight against impunity and the adoption of a gender-specific approach by the judicial system are indispensable.

The third area is participation in decision-making processes. Women's access to elective office is a key element. In that regard, we cannot fail to welcome the examples of Rwanda and Burundi. But we also need to make sure that women, especially through women's organizations, are involved in all the administrative processes.

The final area is the establishment of institutions that practise parity. The phase of rebuilding institutions provides a unique opportunity for countries emerging from conflict to set up institutions that conform to the most advanced legal standards. Instruments such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women must be a point of reference for all who are involved in reconstruction activities.

I listened very closely to the speeches by Ms. McAskie and Ms. Heyzer. We continue to bear in mind what we were told by the NGOs at their Arria formula meeting yesterday afternoon. I would like to thank them for their contributions, which will continue to spur our action in the Council as regards the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

Nana Effah-Apenteng (Ghana): I wish to thank you, Sir, for taking the initiative in organizing this debate on women and peace and security in pursuit of the objectives of Council resolution 1325 (2000). Let me join the preceding speaker in thanking the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the Assistant Secretary-General, Peacebuilding Support Office for their respective briefings. We also wish to thank the Secretary-General for his report on this agenda item (S/2006/770), which not only covers the extensive efforts made to implement the resolution but also illuminates the way forward.

On 31 October 2000, when the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, it provided a groundbreaking mandate, aimed at achieving the full and equal participation of women in all peace and security initiatives, along with the mainstreaming of gender issues. The resolution also outlined the range of actions required to achieve that objective.

As we mark the sixth anniversary of the groundbreaking resolution, it is appropriate that we take stock of the implementation of the resolution to assess its achievements, examine good practices and lessons learned, identify challenges and gaps and take remedial measures. On balance, we are of the view that we have merely paid lip service to the aspirations underpinning that epoch-making resolution and that its implementation has been inconsistent, giving mixed and varying results. That is especially true in most developing countries, including my own, Ghana.

The way forward is within our grasp. The Secretary-General in his annual report to the Council has adequately responded to these challenges by putting forward in a number of key priority areas several concrete recommendations which merit our consideration. They include: vigorous engagement with Member States, development of an effective accountability, monitoring and reporting system, enhanced coordination across the United Nations system, and effective as well as adequate resource allocation.

The ultimate purpose of gender mainstreaming is to eradicate all the factors that reinforce the vulnerability of women in society. To that end, we need to change our mindset and to be more determined, especially at the national level, about making optimal use of existing structures and creating new ones where necessary.

In that regard, I would like to comment briefly on some of the proposals that my delegation believes are key in addressing our concerns. First and foremost, we must take seriously implementation at the national level. In designing programmes for our women, we must take into account the high prevalence of illiteracy, which places them outside the mainstream and therefore out of reach of most programmes. Indeed, the overall implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) has been ad hoc and haphazard at the national level. To date, only a few Governments have developed national action plans for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), most of them, ironically, in the developed world in countries that are neither conflict-ridden nor post-conflict.

It is easy to call on the United Nations and the international community to act, but as Member States we must acknowledge our own role and heed to the call to implement resolution 1325 (2005). Achieving the goals we have set for ourselves simply requires a concerted response to accountability, at the national level. There should be better cooperation and coordination between the relevant public institutions that deal with peacekeeping and women's affairs, which in my country would be the Ministries of Women's Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Internal Affairs and Defence.

Troop-contributing countries should mainstream gender issues in their recruitment, training and development, including in United Nations peacekeeping operations. In that respect, consideration should be given to the particular needs of conflict-ridden or post-conflict countries in order to translate the commitments made into concrete measures that will improve the situation of women. Member States and their partners must continue to provide any necessary financial support for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

An effective and robust accountability, monitoring and reporting system should be developed. However, without timely and clearly earmarked resources, it may not move beyond the drawing table. It is also of cardinal importance that those drawing up national action plans provide for women at the grassroots level or in communities to be encouraged to play a positive role in partnership with civil society.

At the global level, in the current climate of United Nations reform, the time is propitious to thoroughly examine and strengthen intergovernmental oversight and to provide a top layer of oversight to review implementation by both national and United Nations entities. Further, intergovernmental oversight is woefully inadequate. The only mechanism developed by the Security Council to track implementation has been the annual open debate and the Arria formula meeting on women, peace and security. The Council should play a more proactive role by setting up a mechanism for a more systematic, effective and coordinated implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in its work, by designating a Security Council member to serve as a focal point and an expert working group on women, peace and security consisting of Council members.

It is our view that wholly missing from the recommendations of the Secretary-General is action at the regional level. We recognize that in some developed countries, efforts have been made to implement resolution 1325 (2000), but again, ironically, not much has been done in the developing world. Given the history of conflicts in West Africa, a region like ours would benefit from such an undertaking.

The main instrument for implementing resolution 1325 (2000) at the United Nations system level is the Secretary-General's United Nations System-wide Action Plan developed by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security. However, its shortcomings have detracted from its overall purpose,

thereby making it ineffective in accurately tracking progress, as clearly articulated in the report of the Secretary-General. It is also not encouraging to read that a third of the entities within the United Nations failed to respond to the questionnaire on the issue, which may be interpreted as a lack of commitment on the part of those bodies.

We fully support the call of the Secretary-General for the System-wide Action Plan to be revised — and renewed beyond 2007 — in order to remedy its shortcomings and make it more supportive of the ideals and goals of resolution 1325 (2000).

The recently established Peacebuilding Commission has an important role to play in this and we must ensure that our core commitment to gender equality, in line with resolution 1325 (2000), is fully integrated in its work. We expect, in that connection, to be more proactive. The Inter-Agency Task Force could be replicated at the country level where that aspect of their work could be enhanced.

Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) holds us all to a new standard of accountability both during and after conflict. What we should do is to reinforce the political momentum and start more conscious initiatives and activities to intensify the implementation of the resolution. This is the surest way to translate gender equality commitment into reality.

Mr. Rogachev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) continues to be relevant as a guideline in defining the role of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction. We must apply the provisions of the resolution in the process of creating equal opportunities for the women to participate actively in peacebuilding and security, as well as to play a growing role in decision-making. The issue is being mainstreamed in the work of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women and should occupy an appropriate place in the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and the work of the Human Rights Council.

It is certain that women already have an important role and are capable of playing an even greater role in all issues relating to conflict prevention and conflict resolution. In that context, we support the development of a strategy to ensure women's fully fledged participation in peace talks and in the electoral processes.

During post-conflict reconstruction, there must be broader use of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) as the basic reference instrument.

The United Nations System-wide Action Plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) was adopted in 2005 and helped us to implement the United Nations strategy on women, peace and security. The Action Plan made it possible to enhance interagency coordination and structural accountability. However, its potential has not been fully utilized.

We agree with the observation made by the Secretary-General in his report (S/2006/770) that there is a need to close the gaps in the implementation of the Plan, which are due in part to the problems throughout the United Nations system. Closing those gaps does not mean establishing new structures, since that would only worsen duplications and inconsistencies. Instead, we should enhance the effectiveness of existing mechanisms and special procedures by improving their coordination and accountability and ensuring that they use reliable sources of information, which would enable them to avoid bias. Here, we should highlight the role of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and its Task Force on Women, Peace and Security. We also agree that there is a need to make greater use of the expertise of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women. The work of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women is not above criticism. Here, too, we must ensure an objective and depoliticized approach.

We support an extension of the Action Plan. In particular, it should cover all issues related to promoting women's participation in peace processes and ensure that this issue will remain at the centre of the attention of United Nations bodies.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Papua New Guinea.

Mr. Aisi (Papua New Guinea): I speak on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum group based in New York: Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and my own country, Papua New Guinea.

Pacific Islands Forum members continue the important task of implementing resolution 1325 (2000). This year, the Forum secretariat convened a Pacific regional workshop on gender, conflict, peace and security, which emphasized the need to strengthen partnerships among key Government portfolios and their respective ministries, civil society, regional and international organizations and the donor community. Organized in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), femLINK Pacific and the International Women's Development Agency, the workshop called for a number of measures, including an annual update on gender, peace and security issues; the commissioning of research on the gender dimensions of regional conflict and peace processes; the development of a database of Pacific women peacemakers; audits of compliance with resolution 1325 (2000) by regional assistance missions and peace agreements; technical assistance to Forum members for national implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), including capacity-building in the area of gender awareness; support for women's non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on resolution 1325 (2000); and improved gender-sensitive early warning systems.

Those outcomes were subsequently endorsed by the Forum Regional Security Committee, and follow-up action has been integrated into the Forum secretariat's work plan. Other action is progressing. AusAID is funding a programme in Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Fiji to train key civil and governmental representatives on the importance of resolution 1325 (2000) and to translate the resolution into local languages. A number of vibrant women's NGOs in our region — including femLINK Pacific and the Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy, in Fiji, and Vois Blong Mere, in Solomon Islands — are working on promoting the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

That progress illustrates what is possible when local and regional initiatives are supported by the international donor community. This was never more apparent than when the Women, Peace and Security programme, established by UNIFEM in Melanesia, established committees on women, peace and security in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji. In addition, UNIFEM piloted a valuable gender-sensitive early warning indicator pilot project in Solomon Islands in 2005. Regrettably, I have to report that some of those projects have stagnated of late or even ceased to function.

The analysis undertaken in these countries as part of this initiative continues to be used and built on by development organizations. It provides valuable information for building national strategies and action plans for conflict prevention, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction and, more important, for ensuring that the instrumental role that women can and do play in those processes is recognized and taken into account. The sustainability of funding is vital to ensure the success of all our programmes related to resolution 1325 (2000).

Efforts to implement resolution 1325 (2000) in the Pacific are part of a long-term commitment. In 2000, the Biketawa Declaration mandated the Pacific Islands Forum to respond to issues of security at the regional level and reaffirmed the liberty of the individual under the law; the equality of rights for all citizens, regardless of gender, race, colour, creed or political belief; and the individual's inalienable right to participate, by means of a free and democratic political process, in framing the society in which he or she lives. Moreover, the landmark Pacific Plan, adopted by Pacific leaders in October 2005, adopted a broad definition of security to include human security as one of four priority goals for the region, and included the cross-cutting strategic objective of improving gender equality.

Next year, women from all over the Pacific region — including from non-Forum countries and territories — will come together at the Tenth Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and the Third Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Women, to be held in Nouméa, New Caledonia, to review progress made on the Pacific Platform for Action on Advancement of Women and Gender Equality 2005-2015. In 2004, this gathering of Pacific ministers, Government officials and civil society representatives recognized peace and security as a critical and emerging issue and added it to the Pacific Platform for Action on Women. They called on Governments to promote peace by integrating content on peace and conflict resolution into educational programmes; to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000); to promote peace by integrating traditional methodologies of reconciliation into the

peace process, to recognize and enhance women's inclusion in early-warning systems, conflict prevention peace processes and negotiations and post-conflict reconstruction, to recognize the need to address the processes of peace and justice in decision-making and conflict resolution, to make use of regional and international organizations in conducting gender-sensitivity training for peacekeepers to ensure that they are sensitive to issues on the ground, to utilize the provisions of the Biketawa Declaration to proactively monitor national security situations with a view to averting potential conflicts and resolving possible conflicts by peaceful means, and to develop and finance national disaster mitigation and response plans to protect against loss of life and property in the event of natural disasters. The meeting to be held in May 2007 will provide an opportunity for Pacific women leaders to review progress made towards those goals.

While those processes continue, it is important to ensure that countries in our region embrace resolution 1325 (2000) as a framework for the development of national peacekeeping policies, given the reputation of some of our member countries as quality providers of international peacekeeping forces and the increasing involvement of Forum member countries in regional assistance missions. Additionally, at their recently concluded summit, held on 25 October 2006, leaders of our Forum agreed that greater attention needed to be given to implementing international conventions on human rights. Here, I wish to note that one of the Pacific Plan's initiatives refers specifically to resolution 1325 (2000). Our leaders said that such conventions are essential tools for underpinning improvements in institutional governance. They also supported the recommendations of the Forum Regional Security Committee and other regional bodies working to enhance regional safety and security, including a focus on broader political and human security issues, and emphasized the need to match those recommendations with national efforts.

Finally, I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate one of our members, Fiji, on its recent election to the newly formed Peacebuilding Commission, which we trust will provide further impetus for the full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in the Pacific. In that regard, we also welcome the creation of a senior gender adviser position at the Peacebuilding Support Office to ensure that gender is mainstreamed into all aspects of the Peacebuilding Commission's work.

I thank my colleagues for their presentations this morning.

The President: I call on the representative of Norway.

Mr. Løvald (Norway): Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) has led to progress. However, much more can and should be done at all levels.

In order to gain a clearer understanding of how resolution 1325 (2000) translates into change on the ground, a review team made up of representatives from the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Norway, in close cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), visited four major United Nations peacekeeping operations — in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Kosovo. The review team was impressed by the dedication of the gender advisers in the missions visited. They and their staffs have clearly raised awareness of gender issues within United Nations missions. They have also made significant progress in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in the field, particularly in the areas of the rule of law and political participation.

A number of challenges were common to all four missions. The gender focus was missing from the earliest stages of mission development; resources were inadequate; accountability was still limited; and the sustainability of gender efforts was still in doubt. Some gender advisers in the missions enjoyed excellent access to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and were well supported. Others had more difficult working conditions. The review team found a strong correlation between the inclusion of gender perspectives in the missions' activities and the level of cooperation between the individual mission and the United Nations country team.

Although there are examples of best practices, there is a clear need for a more systematic approach to gender issues, starting with the mandates. There is a need for better indicators of successful gender mainstreaming in integrated planning processes. A clear and visible implementation plan is necessary. Adequate financial resources must also be allocated.

It is also important to plan for the longer term. It is critical to keep the long-term objectives in mind in

order to ensure a smooth transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding, in which the United Nations country team should play a key role. Strategic partnerships should be developed with the country team at an early stage, and the missions should draw on the comparative advantages of agencies such as the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the United Nations Development Programme.

The United Nations country team should strive for a fully integrated gender plan that reflects the objectives of resolution 1325 (2000), including clear accountability, division of labour and specific actions to be taken. The strategic plan should include an outline for how to cooperate and coordinate activities with the national Government. This is essential for the sustainability of gender efforts.

We are encouraged by the growing number of highly qualified women in DPKO, but the relatively low number of women in senior management positions should be remedied. We know that wars and conflicts affect women, men, girls and boys in different ways. We also know that women's full participation in peace processes and peacebuilding is necessary for lasting peace. These facts must guide the planning and implementation of both United Nations and our own efforts for peace and development.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Canada.

Mr. McNee (Canada): On behalf of the Government of Canada, I would like to thank Japan for having convened this open debate today. I would also like to thank today's speakers for having demonstrated how important our continued commitment is in moving the women, peace and security agenda forward.

Canada fully endorses the statement to be made later today by the representative of Slovenia on behalf on the Human Security Network.

As we mark the sixth anniversary of the adoption of Council resolution 1325 (2000) and welcome the Secretary-General's in-depth study on violence against women (A/61/122/Add.1), Canada calls on the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission to intensify efforts to address all acts of gender-based violence against women and girls and to eliminate impunity for such violence so that women can play a full role in the reconstruction of their communities and benefit from the dividends of peace.

In this respect, we have seen some positive steps forward. In April of this year, the Council adopted resolution 1674 (2006), on the protection of civilians. That resolution includes strong provisions for prioritizing civilian protection as part of peace support operations and for addressing sexual and gender-based violence.

As with many issues that come before the Council for action, the women, peace and security agenda is not an abstract political concept. In Burundi, we have witnessed the positive impact of women's participation in peace negotiations. In Afghanistan, we have witnessed the strength and commitment of women who fought to enshrine equal rights in their constitution. In post-genocide Rwanda, women have captured a record number of seats in the elected assembly. Such gains need to be protected and built upon so as to ensure their long-lasting positive effects.

The Council is well aware, however — as is the wider international community — that effective and sustainable peace, justice and security will not be achieved if we do not consider all the related activities through a gender lens. In order for peace consolidation to integrate gender equality and women's rights effectively, we need to focus both on the increased direct participation of women in peace processes and on institutional reform that is aware of gender. Without this two-pronged approach, peace consolidation will not be realized.

Last week, Canada co-hosted a panel discussion with the United Nations Development Fund for Women to discuss women's priorities in peace consolidation, especially in the areas of gender justice, security-sector reform and good governance, and to discuss the critical nature of operationalizing resolution 1325 (2000) in its work. Canada warmly welcomes the recent appointment of Carolyn McAskie as Assistant Secretary-General, Peacebuilding Support Office, and would like to thank her for her deep commitment and her continuing engagement on this important agenda.

The Council's direct role in ensuring that women participate at all levels in peace consolidation and that gender equality is integrated throughout all peace and security activities is now well established. The Peacebuilding Commission also shares this responsibility and recently reaffirmed — at its first country-specific meetings on Burundi and on Sierra

Leone — the centrality of resolution 1325 (2000) to its work.

Canada welcomes the Council's pledge, and that of the Peacebuilding Commission and the wider international community, to take steps to promote gender equality and support the empowerment of women. However, Canada is also aware that, as noted by the Secretary-General in his current report to the Council on women, peace and security (S/2006/770), attention to gender equality has not been systematically integrated. In this regard, Canada would like to stress the increasing need for effective monitoring systems, including systematic sex-disaggregated data collection, and more concrete accountability and reporting mechanisms in all areas related to resolution 1325 (2000).

(spoke in French)

In addition, it is important that we build an effective international capacity to prevent and respond to situations in which civilians, particularly women, are at high risk. Canada will continue to monitor the implementation by the Council of its commitments, particularly in country-specific contexts, and to support work that enhances the efforts of the Council and the wider international community in this area. Such efforts include ensuring that gender-equality concerns are integrated into Council resolutions establishing or extending peacekeeping missions and are included in terms of reference for Council missions and mission reports.

In addition, Canada urges the Peacebuilding Commission to develop modalities to ensure the active participation of civil society and representative women's organizations in all areas of its work and to make sure that women's groups actively contribute to peacebuilding and long-term development strategies from the outset.

Canada also calls on the Peacebuilding Commission to adopt an internal policy on gender mainstreaming in its structure and operations. This could include integrating a gender-based analysis in its arrangements for the management, disbursement and use of the new Peacebuilding Fund. Additionally, Canada believes strongly that the Peacebuilding Support Office would benefit from a permanent gender adviser position at the senior management level.

The Council can succeed in establishing sustainable peace and security only if it fully recognizes the contribution that women make to their future and to the future of their nations.

Mr. Liu Zhenmin (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): Let me begin, Mr. President, by thanking you for initiating the discussion of this issue. I wish to thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2006/770) and to express my appreciation to Ms. Mayanja, Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno, Ms. Heyzer and Ms. McAskie for their statements.

This year marks the sixth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). It is also the first anniversary of the introduction by the Secretary-General of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan for implementation of that resolution. The resolution constitutes the basis for the Council's work in the area of women and peace and security and also orients the Council's efforts in this regard.

As described in the report of the Secretary-General, six years of efforts and one year of practice show that the relevant bodies and agencies of the United Nations system have done a great deal of work in early warning and conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, post-conflict reconstruction, implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes and the protection of women's rights and interests in armed conflict. Through the implementation of myriad specific projects, they helped elevate the status and role of women and protected and bolstered their legitimate rights and interests.

Nonetheless, we also realize that the question of women and peace and security covers many levels and facets, involves many institutions and agencies and finds expression in conflict situations with varying characteristics. What is more, in carrying out their own current mandates, those institutions and agencies have encountered institutional and organizational challenges and inadequacies. In some conflict situations, women remain in tragic predicaments, lacking guarantees of their personal safety and security and unable to participate effectively in the peace process and political life. The Chinese delegation attaches great significance to this issue. In that regard, I wish to stress the following points.

First and foremost, the existing outcomes in the area of women, peace and security should be followed up proactively and comprehensively; the Security Council should play a critical role in its own right. Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and a series of other outcomes in this area set out for us clear long-term requirements that need to be met jointly through collective efforts by Member States and various United Nations bodies, agencies and programmes. As the organ that bears primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, the Security Council should strive to remove the root causes of conflicts and intensify conflict prevention and peacekeeping so as to create an enabling environment for the survival and development of all vulnerable groups, including women, children and civilians. For their part, countries should formulate their own national strategies or programmes of action in the light of their national conditions with a view to fulfilling the aforementioned commitments.

Secondly, the status and role of women should receive adequate attention in all phases of the peace process. In this regard, an awareness and a culture of paying heed to and respecting women should be formed. Pursuing gender equality is a demand that is enshrined in the Charter and resolution 1325 (2000), and it is an obligation for all Member States. It is imperative to heed women's special needs and concerns at the various stages of conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Their potential and their role should also be fully recognized and tapped. Women should enjoy full decision-making power in the peace process, as they can provide firm support and a solid foundation for a hard-won peace. A peace process in which women are accorded attention and respect is a promising peace process; a social system in which women are valued and respected is a mature and durable social system.

The Peacebuilding Commission, on which all parties place high hopes, has come into being and has had a smooth start in its substantive work. In its work in the years ahead, it should accord priority to women in post-conflict situations and encourage them to participate in peacebuilding-related activities of all kinds.

Thirdly, in the process of United Nations reform, efforts should be made to enhance the Organization's inter-agency coordination and capacity-building in the field of women and peace and security while optimizing resource allocation.

The Secretary-General's United Nations System-wide Action Plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) is a meaningful experiment as it involves dozens of United Nations bodies and encompasses hundreds of specific actions. We hope that the Plan will be followed through and integrated with the United Nations reform process so that the various bodies within the United Nations system and the Secretariat will be better adapted, systemically and in their practices, to implement the resolution fully. Having deliberated over the years on the complex of issues related to women, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council possess vast experience and systematic agendas of work. For that reason, the Security Council should coordinate with them in its work and focus on questions within its own terms of reference in order to achieve the overall result of a clear division of labour and an emphasis on key issues.

There will be no lasting peace and social stability without the effective participation of women. The Beijing Declaration announced that

> "Local, national, regional and global peace is attainable and is inextricably linked with the advancement of women, who are a fundamental force for leadership, conflict resolution and the promotion of lasting peace at all levels." (*A/CONF.177/20, annex I, para. 18*)

More than 10 years later, that Declaration still provides guidance and is of profound significance. The Chinese Government always attaches importance to the protection of women's rights and interests and to the advancement of women, having taken an active part in all United Nations processes in the field of women. We are ready to work in concert with the international community in a continued effort to achieve all the goals in the area of women and peace and security.

Finally, China supports the Council's issuance of the draft presidential statement on this item, which now commands consensus.

Ms. Løj (Denmark): Let me begin by thanking you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting and thereby once again directing the attention of the Security Council to the indispensable role of women in all efforts to build and maintain peace and security. Let

me also thank all four speakers for their introductions to our debate this morning. Furthermore, I would like to associate my delegation with the statement to be delivered later by the Permanent Representative of Finland on behalf of the European Union.

Last year, Denmark warmly welcomed the United Nations System-wide Action Plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). This year, the report of the Secretary-General (S/2006/770) presents an overview of achievements, gaps and challenges, as well as recommendations for future action for implementation of the Plan. The report clearly indicates that much has been done but also that much more needs to be done, and done better.

Guidelines, workshops and new gender-inclusive procedures are important stepping-stones, tools for proper implementation and for achieving the objectives. But what is the impact of such initiatives? Have they made a difference for women and girls on the ground? The sad answer is, we do not really know.

According to the report, a number of gaps and challenges remain. Let me underline a few of these. Strong commitment, leadership and accountability at the highest level in the United Nations are key to progress. To this, we can all agree. But the report underlines that lack of leadership and commitment to pursue the implementation of the Action Plan both in intergovernmental bodies and in the United Nations system is one of the serious weaknesses affecting the implementation of the resolution. Despite the Security Council's many strategic initiatives to promote gender equality and support the empowerment of women, its attention to gender issues is not systematic.

It is furthermore incomprehensible that, in the United Nations in 2006, there is, in the words of the report, "lack of a common understanding of gender and gender mainstreaming and especially of their practical application" (*S/2006/770, para. 23*). The use of gender advisers in peacekeeping operations by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) has improved capacity. However, to really make a difference, gender advisers must be appointed at the senior level, and their efforts must be matched by the allocation of necessary resources. It is a management responsibility to implement resolution 1325 (2000). I welcome the efforts undertaken by Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno in this regard.

The report must be credited for unveiling weaknesses in accountability mechanisms. We all know that what is measured gets done, and Denmark strongly urges that the Action Plan be transformed into a results-based programming, monitoring and reporting tool.

Denmark places high expectations in the Peacebuilding Commission's ability to further develop and strengthen the necessary cooperation and coordination between the various actors involved and their civilian and military instruments and capabilities. Needless to say, the provisions of resolution 1325 (2000) must be important guiding principles for the work of the Peacebuilding Commission.

At the national level, in 2005, Denmark launched a National Action Plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). The Plan will now be revised in the light of experiences gained by all relevant Danish actors and their partners working in situations of crisis and conflict. We also co-sponsored a workshop in Dubai, at which the United Nations Mine Action Team worked with the United Nations and national staff from Yemen, Jordan, Afghanistan, Iraq and the occupied Palestinian territories to ensure that their mine action programmes promote gender equality. We intend to follow up on the conference to further promote gender equality in mine action.

In another effort to implement resolution 1325 (2000), Denmark requested the International Crisis Group to examine the role of women in peacebuilding in three of Africa's most deadly conflicts. The report contained discouraging findings that women are marginalized in peace processes, grossly underrepresented in the security sector as a whole, and largely excluded from the formal economy. And what about resolution 1325 (2000)? The resolution was by and large unknown among the actors at the country and grass-roots levels.

Six years after the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) the challenge remains. Our political support for the resolution must be transformed into visible and documented impact for the millions of women and girls affected by conflicts.

Mr. Mayoral (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, let me thank the Japanese presidency for the organization of this open debate that reflects the commitment of the Security Council to the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). I am also

grateful for the participation of those speakers who preceded me, whose statements give us a clearer picture of the progress and the gaps in this process of implementation of the resolution.

From a human rights perspective, Argentina attaches high priority to the situation of women in conflict and the participation of women in peace processes and in the peacebuilding phase. Resolution 1325 (2000) is the legal framework that allows us to make this participation effective at both the national and international levels. At this time, the debate should focus on the role of women in peacebuilding. On behalf of my delegation, I would like to recall here once again the important role that women played in the democratization process in Argentina when they fought for human rights and decided to unite in the search for the truth as to the whereabouts of their children and grandchildren who had been victims of the forced disappearances or kidnappings which characterized the military dictatorship in Argentina.

However, at the time, these groups of women had no international legal framework to protect them on their path towards the truth. At the time, the international community looked upon the women as victims of conflicts rather than protagonists of a peace process or fundamental participants in the building of a lasting peace.

Our own experience makes us aware of the importance of carrying out national action plans for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). These plans should be drawn up through a participative process that should include monitoring and accountability mechanisms whereby Governments would ensure not only that a greater number of women participated in decision-making but also that their demands and needs were taken into consideration at all levels of State, especially in the process of institutional reform, including the reform of the legislative, judicial and security sectors.

From the perspective of the United Nations system, we feel that it is necessary to ensure a systematic implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in all areas of its work, starting with the inclusion of a gender perspective in all resolutions of this Council, including resolutions that establish or extend a peace operation, and in the terms of reference of the missions undertaken by its members.

We hope that the now functional Peacebuilding Commission, with the support and assistance of Carolyn McAskie, will prove a useful instrument which will allow us to incorporate a gender policy in all post-conflict situations that come before this body for consideration.

Although the subject of this debate is confined to the roles of women in the consolidation of peace, my delegation would nevertheless like to refer to the violence suffered by women and girls in armed conflicts solely due to their gender. We support the publication of the report of the Secretary-General on all forms of violence against women (A/61/122/Add.1). We believe that it is essential that the Security Council be regularly informed of instances of such violence, so that it can contribute to putting an end to the impunity often enjoyed by perpetrators and to holding accountable the parties to the conflict responsible for such violations.

In conclusion, we believe that the commitment so often expressed vis-à-vis the situation of women and gender equality must be translated into real efforts to give women a voice in peace-consolidation processes; lead to the reform of institutions, to take into consideration the needs of women; and bring about the establishment of national and international mechanisms for accountability as regards the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

My country supports the draft presidential statement on this item, which will be read out by the President at the end of this meeting.

The President: The next speaker on my list is the representative of Australia, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. Hill (Australia): Australia recognizes the critical role women play in peace and security. We are a strong supporter of, and advocate for, Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), and have been ever since its adoption. We demonstrate that commitment both in our domestic actions and through our support of countries in our region in their efforts to understand and implement the resolution.

For example, we have an ongoing programme of training on the implementation of the resolution for personnel from within the Australian Defence Forces and military personnel from other countries in the Asia-Pacific region. This year we also supported a Pacific Islands Forum regional workshop on gender,

conflict, peace and security — the first of its kind in the Pacific. It was attended by policymakers and representatives from military and law enforcement agencies and from women's non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all 16 Pacific Islands Forum countries. The workshop outcomes are now guiding follow-up work on gender, peace and security. We stand ready to assist with those activities wherever appropriate.

Also in the Asia-Pacific region, we are supporting two NGO projects that aim to enhance advocacy and action towards the full implementation of the resolution. They focus on strengthening regional information-sharing, increasing awareness of the role of women in national, regional and international peacebuilding efforts, and the training of key policy-makers in the region and NGOs on the implementation of the resolution. They will also develop a regional network of women whose names can be put forward by their respective Governments for nomination for positions in United Nations peacekeeping missions.

Domestically, Australia is also taking steps to back our support for resolution 1325 (2000) with concrete action. We actively engage women in our peacekeeping efforts, and women military, police and civilian personnel play a key role in our assistance to United Nations peacekeeping missions and bilateral and regional endeavours, such as the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands.

More broadly, gender equality has been clearly articulated as an overarching principle in the new white paper on Australia's aid programme. A new gender policy is being developed to underpin that commitment, and practical guidelines have been developed to address policy issues and operational strategies to promote the role of women, including in peacebuilding.

Advances have been made in understanding and operationalizing the links between gender, development, human rights, peace, security and justice. Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) reaffirms the role of women in preventing and resolving conflicts and encourages making women central to negotiating peace agreements, to peacekeeping operations and to reconstructing societies stricken by war. It makes the gender perspective and gender equality relevant to all Security Council efforts.

We stress, however, that the concerns of women must be addressed not just in the early stages of peace processes but also in post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction and in broader development efforts. Gender equality is fundamental not just to achieving peace but also to longer-term development and the prevention of conflict.

Australia strongly supports resolution 1325 (2000). We will continue to find tangible ways through our aid programme, our involvement in peacekeeping missions — including regional missions — and at the domestic level to implement the resolution.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate our regional neighbour, Fiji, for setting an example in the region by including key elements of the resolution in its national women's plan of action. We are confident that Fiji will also make a valuable contribution on these issues through its membership of the Peacebuilding Commission, which is tasked with integrating the gender perspective into all of its work.

The President: I now call on the representative of South Africa.

Mr. Kumalo (South Africa): We would like to thank the delegation of Japan for organizing this very important meeting. We are also pleased by the participation of Ms. Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), a body that has already been involved in the implementation of this important resolution. We also welcome Ms. Carolyn McAskie, Assistant Secretary-General, Peacebuilding Support Office. We look forward to the further strengthening of the work that has been done on this important issue.

My delegation is indeed pleased to address the Security Council on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security. We associate ourselves with the statements to be made later on by the representative of Lesotho on behalf of the Southern African Development Community group, and by the representative of Slovenia on behalf of the Human Security Network.

With the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), we came to realize the important contribution made by women in the maintenance of peace and security. We have also come to accept that women are not simply victims of war and conflicts, but important role-players

in the resolution of those same conflicts. Since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), we have seen a growing demand for the inclusion of women in peace negotiations. Women are gradually finding a place in the implementation of peace agreements, post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and disarmament. What remains is a lack of much-needed political will to allow women to fully participate in, and contribute to, the resolution of conflicts.

Promoting the role of women in the consolidation of peace underscores the four main principles of resolution 1325 (2000). First, there is a need for the full and unrestricted participation of women in all decision-making and peace processes. Secondly, it is important to integrate gender perspectives and training into peacekeeping operations. Thirdly, there is an obligation to protect women and girls from human rights abuses, including gender-based violence in conflict zones. Fourthly, there is a need to mainstream the gender perspective into United Nations reporting systems and programme-implementation mechanisms.

The Beijing Platform for Action long ago stated the need to include women in decision-making and to ensure that policies were gender-sensitive, as a fundamental process towards the acceleration of women's emancipation. In recent years we have seen women coming together by themselves in the Great Lakes region and in the Mano River Basin to decide on their own future and to organize their participation in the national reconstruction of their countries. The South African Women in Dialogue initiative has organized consultations with women from several African countries emerging from conflict to forge strategies that seek to make certain that women's concerns are taken into account in peacebuilding efforts.

Yet, it remains disheartening that sexual and gender-based violence, including trafficking in persons, continues in conflict areas. In some parts of the world, gender-based violence has reached almost epidemic proportions. Every effort must be made to halt that inhuman practice and to bring the perpetrators to justice. Efforts to monitor and report gender-based violence in situations of armed conflict must be complemented by practical measures at the national and international levels to end impunity and to bring those who are responsible for crimes against women and girls to justice. In that regard, South Africa supports the efforts of the United Nations to fully implement codes of conduct and disciplinary procedures that prevent and respond to sexual exploitation, while enhancing monitoring and enforcement mechanisms in peace missions.

The full achievement of the goals contained in resolution 1325 (2000) can become a reality only through better information, coordination and cooperation, as well as strengthened commitment and accountability at all levels of the United Nations system. Enhanced cooperation with regional organizations, as well as with civil society and women's national machineries, is also essential. My delegation therefore notes with appreciation the progress made in the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan proposed just last year.

Finally, the Peacebuilding Commission also presents an opportunity for the integration of the gender perspective in all phases of consolidating peace. We urge the Peacebuilding Commission to pay particular attention to the knowledge and understanding that women can bring in peacebuilding processes. That is the least we can expect from that newest and important organ of the United Nations.

The President: I call on the representative of Slovenia.

Mr. Kirn (Slovenia): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the States members of the Human Security Network, namely, Austria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland, Thailand and South Africa as observer.

The role and contribution of women are critical to the promotion of the human security agenda, shifting the traditional emphasis from inter-State security to people-centred security. The Network thanks the Japanese presidency of the Security Council for organizing this open debate and welcomes its wider format, in particular the inclusion of voices of civil society representatives from Burundi and Timor-Leste.

Six years after the adoption of the landmark Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), there is not much room and not much reason for complacency. Women are still not equal partners in peace processes and gender-based violence is increasing. We stress the importance of better implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan for the

implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). We therefore strongly call for the creation of a Security Council mechanism to monitor its own actions in integrating resolution 1325 (2000), as well as other related resolutions, into its daily work. We also expect the Security Council to meet with civil society organizations, including women's groups, when on a mission to conflict-affected countries or regions. That will underpin the commitment to developing national-level coordination strategies or action plans on the implementation of the resolution.

In many post-war situations, women's organizations will be among the first to organize themselves as civil society voices, yet among the last to be able to access formal decision-making structures and processes. That trend needs to be reversed and, while recognition of the contribution of women's networks and grassroots peacebuilding initiatives to peace consolidation processes is growing, we still need to integrate them much better.

Both the Security Council and the newly established Peacebuilding Commission need to pay special and full attention to integrating women equally into formal peace processes. If we wish to aim at long-term and durable peace, all parts of society need to part take in it, including women. Looking at different cases of negotiations in the past, it is striking to note the near total lack of women peace envoys to date. It is clear that at all levels — local, national and, indeed, the highest international level — women should be included in conflict-resolution efforts in accordance with resolution 1325 (2000).

It is vital to operationalize resolution 1325 (2000) in the work of all United Nations bodies, particularly in United Nations peacekeeping operations. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in particular has done a lot in recent years to support the mainstreaming of the gender perspective in conflict prevention, resolution and reconstruction, including by supporting grass-roots women's organizations. The Peacebuilding Commission and other United Nations bodies would be wise to draw fully on that expertise and experience and to include the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, UNIFEM and other relevant actors into the Commission's discussions on integrating the gender perspective fully into its work.

We have noted in previous open debates of the Security Council the alarmingly pervasive nature of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict-affected areas. Sexual violence is repeatedly and with frightening persistence used as a deliberate method of warfare. Therefore, the issue of violence against women needs to receive adequate attention during and after armed conflict. Members of the Network urge the Council to systematically incorporate gender considerations in all aspects of mission planning and execution, particularly from the outset. All peacekeeping missions need to strictly obey the zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse and to put in place disciplinary measures to address any violations.

We need to prevent violence against women and to ensure accountability for it. We welcome the release of the Secretary-General's study on violence against women and we fully concur that there is a need to eliminate impunity for gender-based violence so that women can play a meaningful role in the reconstruction of their communities and benefit from peace dividends.

As stated in the report of the Secretary-General, awareness and action on the System-wide Action Plan are still being promoted in a sporadic rather than a systematic and holistic approach. Insufficient gender mainstreaming and gender empowerment are true of the international community as a whole when dealing with conflict resolution and peacebuilding. We call on both the Security Council and the new Peacebuilding Commission to take the lead towards creating a genuinely gender-blind culture, which will provide benefits to individuals in society and to society as a whole.

Mr. Voto-Bernales (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): Peru thanks you, Sir, for your initiative of organizing today's open debate on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and the role of women in peacebuilding.

We also thank the Secretary-General for his report on the United Nations System-wide Action Plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), and welcome the statements made by the four senior United Nations representatives that we heard this morning.

Six years after the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), which involved a change in the way we think about and deal with the issue of the participation of women in conflict prevention and in promoting and

assisting in the peacekeeping process, we see that, despite the efforts made to implement it, realities on the ground show that we are still a long way away from achieving the goals that we set ourselves.

It is regrettable that women are continuing to suffer as a result of armed conflict, during which they are subject to all forms of physical, sexual and psychological violence committed by both State and non-State actors. Increasingly violence and sexual abuse, as well as the transmission of HIV/AIDS, are used intentionally as weapons of war. That statement is corroborated by the in-depth study on all forms of violence against women that the Secretary-General has submitted to the General Assembly.

That is why we feel that the international community must continue to use all instruments available to it so as to put an end to violations of the human rights of women and girls in situations of armed conflict. This must be done through coordinated strategies and policies at the national and international levels. For example, although it is important that such situations be brought systematically before international tribunals, States themselves have the primary responsibility for providing justice and for punishing those responsible for crimes. Only the rule of law and justice can create a safe and sustainable environment that will enable the full participation of women in the peacebuilding process.

With regard to the Secretary-General's report, Peru welcomes its consideration of the Action Plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). In the light of the conclusions reached, we support the proposal to continue working to speed up the implementation of the resolution in the five key areas.

Likewise, we agree with the Secretary-General that the Action Plan, at all levels of the United Nations system, should be renewed beyond 2007 and redesigned to take into account the conclusions and measures contained in the report.

The establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission and of its Support Office gives us a fresh opportunity to help countries in the process of their economic and social reconstruction and to prevent them from slipping once again into armed conflict. Likewise, it is important that States shoulder their responsibilities and take the necessary and firm steps necessary to remove those barriers preventing women from being effectively involved in the political sphere, in decision-making bodies, and in the peacekeeping and peacebuilding processes.

We also deem it important that the agencies of the United Nations system and civil society organizations continue to implement innovative projects to prevent gender-based violence in situations of armed conflict and to address every kind of violence against women. In that respect, we are pleased to learn that peacekeeping missions are increasingly incorporating a gender perspective in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process.

Likewise, we would like to highlight the fact that many peacekeeping operations already have offices on gender issues, thus contributing to the promotion of national, governmental and non-governmental capacities in conflict areas.

There is much to be done, and the task must addressed jointly by States, by the United Nations system and civil society, in particular by women's groups. In that respect, we would like to underline the fact that an Arria-formula meeting, convened by the delegation of the United Kingdom, was held yesterday, on Wednesday, 25 October, on the role of women in peacebuilding. That meeting helped us to obtain firsthand knowledge of the work done by women's organizations in the field, with a view to ensuring that resolution 1325 (2000) is fully known and implemented.

Mr. Burian (Slovakia): First of all, I would like to thank all four briefers for their presentations and the Japanese presidency for having convened this important debate.

Slovakia fully associates itself with the statement to be delivered shortly by the Permanent Representative of Finland on behalf of the European Union. I will therefore limit myself to a few additional remarks.

Slovakia strongly supports the full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), which represents a concrete tool for the promotion and protection of the rights of women in conflict and post-conflict situations. Thanks to the activities and programmes connected with the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), there is a growing awareness and understanding of the fact that lasting and sustainable solutions cannot be achieved without the

participation of women and the inclusion of gender perspectives in peace processes.

We welcome the integration of a gender-perspective focus into the projects of various United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations active in conflict and post-conflict situations. We attach a high value to projects promoting dialogue between communities and the active participation of women in ongoing decision-making processes.

In that regard, let me highlight here, for example, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) programme on advancing women's rights to democratic governance and peace in South-East Europe, prepared by the UNIFEM regional office in Bratislava, under whose scope the agency, inter alia, facilitates dialogue between various women's organizations in Kosovo.

Slovakia fully supports the efforts of the Secretary-General and of the United Nations system as a whole to mainstream gender issues in the agenda, especially in the field of conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and the systematic approach taken to this task through the United Nations System-wide Action Plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), as reflected in the Secretary-General's report.

In that respect, we welcome the inclusion of the issue of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) on the agenda of recent meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission on Burundi and Sierra Leone.

However, despite all the efforts of the international community, women in conflict situations continue to face violence, including sexual violence, and abuses. The situation of the hundreds of thousands of women affected by conflicts and wars and the worst abuses of human rights committed against women and girls around the world are a reminder to us that a great deal remains to be done to eradicate the evils of gender-based violence. There are still too many gaps in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

In our view, a more coherent and systematic approach on the part of the international community is needed to address the requirements and obligations of resolution 1325 (2000) in order to improve the situation of women and increase their participation in peacebuilding activities.

When the Security Council visited Darfur and refugee camps in eastern Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo last spring, we met with women's groups, refugees and non-governmental organizations. We heard horrific stories about gender-based violence used as a weapon of war. United Nations agencies in the Democratic Republic of the Congo indicated that more than 30,000 survivors of sexual violence have been identified in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since mid-2005, and their number, as we have heard from Mr. Guehenno, continues to grow alarmingly. Only some have benefited from some form of assistance.

In western Darfur and eastern Chad, the situation is even worse; there is almost no access by victims to judicial and medical services. That situation, in our view, requires urgent and effective action so as to help and protect women from further abuses and violence.

Slovakia strongly condemns the continued widespread sexual violence and all other forms of violations of the human rights of women and girls in situations of armed conflict. Impunity for such acts is unacceptable. If the national authorities are unable or unwilling to act, the international community has the responsibility to use all available tools to put an end to the impunity of the perpetrators of those crimes. We believe that the international community and national authorities must respond more effectively to widespread, continued sexual violence in situations of conflict. That response could include the prevention of sexual violence through advocacy and sensitization campaigns; the training of workers in the medical, psychological and legal assistance fields and law enforcement institutions; the identification of survivors through community-based networks; medical, psychological and legal assistance to victims; and efforts to curb impunity, including by supporting the prosecution of crimes involving sexual violence.

We also reiterate our full support for the zero-tolerance policy with respect to crimes committed by United Nations personnel.

We believe that the appropriate presence of women and gender training in armed forces, including in peacekeeping forces, clearly has a positive effect on the behaviour and actual conduct of the troops on duty. In this respect, we are convinced that the provisions of resolution 1325 (2000) are fully relevant for carrying out security sector reform plans. That issue needs to be

properly addressed. It is closely related to other phenomena that are natural parts of the comprehensive approach to security sector reform, especially child soldiers, gender-based violence and sexual exploitation amongst others. Otherwise, there is an imminent danger of countries falling back into a violent conflict.

Sustainable solutions require a holistic institutional approach. Addressing sexual violence requires mainstreaming the issues into security sector and other reforms of governance and creating a permanent mechanism that brings victims, civil society, Government and donors together in order to coordinate policies and actions more effectively on the domestic and international levels.

Finally, as far as Slovakia's own implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) is concerned, the long-term reform plan of the Slovak Armed Forces called "Model 2015" also addresses the gender issues and refers specifically to resolution 1325 (2000). Its implementation has already led to a moderate increase of the number of female officers, currently at 7.5 per cent, in all kinds of army units, including the Slovak troops deployed in the United Nations, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and European Union (EU) missions. Women in the Slovak Armed Forces undergo the same training as men. The predeployment training of our peacekeepers includes special gender training with particular emphasis on the promotion of gender equality and the prevention of sexual crimes.

In conclusion, I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate the Government of India on its decision to contribute to the first-ever female Formed Police Unit, which will join the United Nations Mission in Liberia later this year. We believe that it will serve as a positive example, and the presence of that unit will have a significant positive effect on post-conflict Liberian society.

Sir Emyr Jones Parry (United Kingdom): I welcome this debate on a vital resolution. It was good to hear, this morning, from members of the United Nations family and, later this afternoon, we will hear from civil society representatives. My thanks, as well, to those who contributed so valuably to the area meeting that we held yesterday.

I wish to align myself with the statement to be made in a little while by the representative of Finland on behalf of the European Union.

The United Kingdom is committed to ensuring that women are provided with the opportunity to participate fully in all stages of the peace process — from early ceasefire negotiations to reforms of the security sector and restoration of the rule of law, through all stages of a conflict. The full participation of women in peace consolidation is vital to sustained and long-term stability. But it is much more than that — it is essential that the rights of women, so often the victims, be respected. This means responding to all the problems that women confront in post-conflict situations, and encouraging their empowerment through education, employment and participation in the political process — the areas identified in resolution 1325 (2000).

Peacebuilding is difficult enough; 50 per cent of the countries involved will relapse into conflict within five to ten years. Excluding women from the process only makes peace more uncertain.

We have high expectations of the Peacebuilding Commission. It should produce greater coherence in the total peacebuilding effort. That includes ensuring that gender is integrated at the very start of our efforts to establish peace, and carried through in all its different aspects: disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, security sector reform and the rule of law.

The recent meetings on Sierra Leone and Burundi have identified the need for a more gender-sensitive approach. We must now see this through, while concrete steps are taken to build peace in these countries.

As my Norwegian colleague described, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom recently participated in a joint donor review of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in the United Nations missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Kosovo. I am happy to note that progress is being made — but six years on, that should be the norm and not the exception. Gender mainstreaming is not taking place; there is an absence of clear monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and therefore accountability is weak. Gender is not included in a systematic or coherent way in either the establishment or the running of peacekeeping missions.

The problem is implementation: implementation by Member States, where national plans are much needed; implementation by the countries emerging

from conflict, and implementation by the United Nations family. We all have a responsibility.

Within the United Nations system, there are many dedicated and serious efforts being made to cope with the issues in resolution 1325 (2000), but they lack coherence — they are not necessarily coordinated; it is not always clear who is responsible for doing what; and I am not sure that we can consistently say that relationships are cooperative and not conflictual.

Let me end with a challenge to the United Nations system: Can we set clear objectives for each of our peace support operations in every post-conflict country? The objective is simple — to implement resolution 1325 (2000). In setting that objective, can we then develop an action plan, specific to each country with the consent of the Government of that country, in which the individual funds, programmes and agencies assume particular responsibility, designated so, for the separate elements in resolution 1325 (2000)?

If that were done, as we then looked at country situations, the Council would be able to assess the objectives, the intended implementation and the success in achieving precise outputs. This would be a systematic application of the resolution and represent accountability for how it was actually being implemented.

I hope that in response to this debate the Secretariat can endorse such an approach, and take on the responsibility of putting a degree of order and planning into the way in which this issue is addressed and the way in which we give effect to resolution 1325 (2000).

As the United Nations looks to new ways to ensure peace consolidation and to reform our service delivery, we must accept that women should be full and equal participants in all parts of the process. To do otherwise is an injustice to them and an injustice to the cause of peace, which we seek to serve. We are all obliged, therefore, to work together to ensure the full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). That should be only too apparent. We all have a part to play in it. So, now let us plan and be clear that we are doing it, and that we know how we are doing it.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Finland.

Ms. Rehn (Finland): It is a great honour for me to address the Security Council on resolution 1325 (2000), a resolution to which I personally have devoted so much time and passion.

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU). The following countries align themselves with this statement: Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Croatia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Iceland, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova.

On behalf of the European Union, I would like to extend my thanks to the Japanese presidency for holding this open debate.

Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) is, in many ways, a milestone in the recognition of the role of women in peace consolidation and has been welcomed by women all over the world. However, six years after the resolution's adoption, there are still serious gaps in its implementation. We need to analyse these gender gaps, prioritize women's role throughout the peace process and show leadership which ensures women's empowerment, participation and protection.

The European Union believes that it is critical to move from marginalization to action. We encourage increased attention to the equal participation of women from the first stages of negotiating peace through reconstruction and political participation.

The number of women in higher posts in United Nations peace operations remains low. We urge the Secretary-General to continue to identify and nominate women for senior posts. We also urge all other parties to increase the number of women staff in the areas of peacebuilding and peacekeeping. We must also engage in gender-specific institutional reform to make the institutions more responsive to women.

Post-conflict reconstruction provides an opportunity for legal and justice reform. The legal framework and the judicial system should better protect the rights of women and girls, ensure their access to justice and remove gender-discriminatory statutes and practices concerning rights to land, property and inheritance. Promoting the rule of law and true access to justice for women is crucial.

The European Union reiterates its support for the establishment of a rule of law assistance unit and requests that the unit be established without further

delay. We hope that the unit, once established, will adopt a strong gender focus.

The EU emphasizes that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes should include women and girls. Reconstituted police and armed forces should seek gender balance and should be reformed to introduce gender equality. We also believe that gender should be an integral part of security-sector reform programmes.

We believe that the Peacebuilding Commission provides a unique forum for strong institutional and strategic leadership and prioritization regarding the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). We are very pleased to see that the role of women and resolution 1325 (2000) were included in the Commission's first country-specific meetings. The EU believes that gender should be incorporated into every aspect of the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Support Office. The Commission should also ensure open and inclusive participation and representation of women's organizations and civil society in its work.

The EU strongly believes in gender equality as a prerequisite for peace and security. Resolution 1325 (2000) is currently being implemented also within the context of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). The EU is committed to increasing women's representation at all decision-making levels and in peacekeeping operations, increasing the dialogue with local and international women's groups, protecting women and girls affected by conflict and incorporating a gender perspective into all ESDP operations.

Gender inclusion has to start at the highest levels, and it has to be done systematically. The EU has adopted a checklist for gender in ESDP operations. In addition, all the operations are bound by the Generic Standards of Behaviour, which prohibit any involvement in sexual exploitation, trafficking in women or prostitution. We believe that all peacekeeping personnel should act in an exemplary manner, and we encourage the training of all United Nations personnel, at all levels.

Armed conflicts have increasingly been characterized by the use of sexual violence against women and girls. Violence against women in and after armed conflict constitutes a grave human rights violation. The EU, in line with decisions of the Security Council, strongly condemns all gender-based violence in situations of armed conflict and further condemns all violations of the human rights of women and girls.

We urge that impunity be ended for all perpetrators by strengthening the legal and judicial systems and by enacting and enforcing legislation to ensure investigation, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators. The EU stresses that impunity must be excluded from all war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and gender-based crimes, and it reiterates its support for the International Criminal Court in this regard.

The response to gender-based violence requires long-term and coordinated efforts, including protection, health care, education and psycho-social, social, economic and legal support. The EU also underscores the importance of preventing gender-based violence.

In line with the proposal outlined in the recent report of the Secretary-General on all forms of violence against women (A/61/122/Add.1), the EU supports the establishment of monitoring mechanisms within the Security Council to address the prevention and redress of violence against women in armed conflict.

The European Union takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan (S/2006/770). We encourage strengthened coordination between United Nations agencies, both at Headquarters and in the field, and urge the development of a regular monitoring and reporting mechanism for the Action Plan.

Incorporating resolution 1325 (2000) into the Security Council's work in order to ensure a gender-sensitive approach in all such work is crucial, but there is often a lack of understanding of the concept of gender mainstreaming. The EU therefore welcomes the current efforts by the United Nations and Member States to train permanent missions and Security Council members on how to translate the resolution into concrete action. Additional measures to include resolution 1325 (2000) in the work of the Security Council should also be considered, such as establishing a working group or focal point.

Member States need to take responsibility for the success of resolution 1325 (2000) through ensuring that it is integrated into national policy and training programmes. A number of EU member States, as well

as other countries, have developed national action plans on the implementation of the resolution. We encourage countries to develop such plans, as well as to apply a broad gender mainstreaming approach across government.

Finally, the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) is closely linked to achieving gender equality and equal participation by women at all levels of society. In post-conflict societies, indeed, women constitute much more than half of the population. Women are entitled to an active role in rebuilding their society.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Sweden.

Mr. Lidén (Sweden): Let me first associate myself with the statement just made by the representative of Finland on behalf of the European Union.

By adopting resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, the Security Council affirmed six years ago that the strengthening of women's participation in conflict prevention and conflict management is of central importance for the promotion of international peace and security and human rights.

The implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) is not only an aim in itself, but is also fundamental, because it is a way to reach the objectives of security, development, human rights and gender equality. It should therefore also be seen as an important basis for the work of the Peacebuilding Commission.

The United Nations system has undertaken considerable efforts in developing a comprehensive action plan to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). Sweden strongly supports the implementation and follow-up of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan for resolution 1325 (2000), adopted in 2005.

During last year's open debate (see S/PV.5294), Sweden emphasized that we all have a responsibility to provide ideas and good practices, and must not only expect initiatives from others. In order to fulfil that responsibility, Sweden has completed a national action plan aimed at intensifying our implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). The action plan was developed in cooperation with governmental agencies and civil society. The Swedish action plan recognizes the importance of implementation at the national, regional and global levels.

At the national level, a number of specific guidelines have been adopted for Swedish participation in peacekeeping and other activities in conflict-affected countries. The Swedish armed forces has launched a more systematic effort to increase the number of women conscripts and officers able to participate in international operations. The Folke Bernadotte Academy has systematically incorporated resolution 1325 (2000) in the planning and implementation of its training courses and in special projects with regard to missions abroad. Furthermore, the Swedish police has implemented special initiatives that have resulted in the percentage of women participating in peacekeeping operations being close to or the same as at the national level.

At the regional level, the European Union is currently working towards a more gender-sensitive atmosphere to encourage more women to apply for European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) missions and positions. The appointment of a special adviser on gender issues in the European Union operation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is one concrete example.

Globally, in the United Nations, Sweden has given political and financial support to the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in United Nations peace support operations, as well as in security-sector reform measures and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes in a number of countries through our bilateral development cooperation.

When it comes to missions abroad in general, whether European Union or United Nations missions, we must all be aware of and condemn sexual exploitation and abuse. For that purpose, we should not stop asking for reports and documents that highlight gender equality issues.

Sweden has put forward a proposal about civilian observers in peacekeeping missions. The proposed new category of seconded civilian personnel has the potential to significantly increase the number of female mission members at the field level, where military observer teams very often constitute the only presence of a peace mission, and would thus be an important contribution to the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

Sweden, together with South Africa, and with the assistance of the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Legal Assistance Consortium is co-chairing the global initiative on partners for gender justice in conflict-affected countries. The partners have organized international meetings in Sweden and Liberia, as well as here in New York. The report from the high-level meeting on gender justice in Liberia has recently been presented to the Secretary-General. We have asked that the report be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

Finally, we look forward to seeing the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Support Office working to implement the commitments of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), in order to include women in all peace consolidation initiatives. Women should be seen as agents of security and development.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Germany.

Mr. Von Ungern-Sternberg (Germany): Germany associates itself with the statement made earlier by the presidency of the European Union and would like to add the following remarks:

Peacebuilding and peace consolidation require patience and determination. Without any doubt, they also require the involvement of both men and women. Far too often, however, the full potential of women is not used, or they may even be completely left out of the process. And far too often, women who actively work for peace and reconstruction are discriminated against or even become targets of violence. One month ago, the head of the Department of Women's Affairs of the southern Afghan province of Kandahar was brutally murdered.

We must not recede in the face of those obstacles. The international community, national Governments and all actors at all levels must all continue their efforts to make women matter in the building and consolidation of peace. Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) has been a landmark decision to that end. We must continue to strive to achieve its full implementation. It is important to ensure that the special experiences, abilities and needs of women are taken into consideration when designing and developing new instruments, policies and projects in the area of conflict prevention, conflict management and peacebuilding. Therefore, we welcome the call for the new Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Support Office to integrate a gender perspective into their work. This must be implemented now — in the field as well as in New York.

Let me point out some indispensable elements. Women need justice. A gender-sensitive judicial system will benefit all, not only the victims of sexual violence. Women need safety. Germany has therefore launched various projects aimed at promoting the presence of women in the Afghan police force. And women and women's non-governmental organizations must be active agents in the construction of civil society and democratic institutions. In that context, they can also make valuable contributions to the work of the Peacebuilding Commission.

Sexual exploitation and abuse and the solicitation of prostitutes in peacekeeping operations is still an issue. It is extremely unfortunate that, six years after the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), we have still not come to grips with that issue. We strongly support the zero-tolerance policy of the Department for Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and welcome the Department's efforts to effectively fight sexual exploitation and abuse of the most vulnerable by those who have come with a mandate to protect. To that end, I am glad to announce, Germany will finance the Department of Peacekeeping Operations' anti-prostitution campaign by contributing more than $300,000. We hope to formalize that pledge in the coming days. We are confident that that campaign will have a real impact.

Finally, I wish to return to my initial assessment. We have witnessed some progress in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in the past year. We have seen promising examples of women's involvement in the consolidation of peace in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Burundi. We welcome the inclusion of a strong reference to resolution 1325 (2000) as a cross-cutting issue in resolution 1719 (2006) on Burundi, which was adopted this week. In Afghanistan, under the Bonn Agreement and the new constitution, women are taking an active part in the consolidation of peace and in the building of a new political reality, be it in parliament or in the Government, at the national and provincial levels.

But much more needs to be done. Germany, as a member of the group Friends of resolution 1325

(2000), will therefore continue to work for equal participation and full involvement by women in the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.

Mr. Al-Qahtani (Qatar) (*spoke in Arabic*): Permit me at the outset to thank you, Mr. President, and the Permanent Mission of Japan for the efforts and skill with which you have prepared for this open debate.

We congratulate ourselves and the international community on the progress made in implementing Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). However, much work remains to be done to fully realize the objectives and purposes of that resolution.

The State of Qatar will continue to play a major role in promoting the role of women at the national, regional and international levels and in all areas of life. We strongly believe in a number of principles aimed at promoting the role of women, including ensuring women's participation at every stage of efforts to maintain and promote international peace and security; protecting women and girls from human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law during armed conflict; strict enforcement of measures against the perpetrators of sexual violence and attacks against women and girls in areas of armed conflict — regardless of whether those perpetrators are parties to the conflict or others who work in United Nations peacekeeping missions — and putting an end to impunity for such crimes; and promoting best practices and effective laws to guarantee effective participation by women in all aspects of peacekeeping and security missions.

Recognizing and embracing those major principles require that we view this issue with transparency and objectivity and that we avoid double standards and political opportunism. Failure to uphold them will not only weaken the role of women in the maintenance of peace and security, but will also hamper our quest for lasting peace and reconciliation.

We cannot merely depend on women's courage and resolve to participate in every stage of peace and security processes; we must also establish programmes and promulgate effective legislation and social policies that are in keeping with the new social traditions of various societies and seek to protect the dignity and status of women in those societies.

Identifying ways and means to empower women, including sharing sound practices and promoting women's roles in decision-making at all levels, is essential for the effective implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). In accordance with the mandate set out in that resolution and the relevant Security Council presidential statements, the United Nations System-wide Action Plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) — which covers a number of priority areas — has been established. While the Action Plan has made a positive contribution to the implementation of the resolution, we look forward to a revised action plan that includes more detailed information about the framework of conflict analysis resulting from early warning indicators that are sensitive to gender and to geographic activities. Here, it is essential to take into account the organic relation between the relevant United Nations organs and national and regional organizations and to focus on improving the coordination among the relevant agencies and the technical cooperation at our disposal to promote national peacemaking and peacebuilding capacities and to promote practical guidelines on the basis of lessons learned from the advancement of women and their active and full participation in civil society institutions.

The key to the full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) lies in our commitment and accountability in assessing progress at all levels, helping States to establish national action plans and promoting the participation of regional commissions in the establishment and assessment of national policies, strategies and programmes to attain the major objectives of those plans.

We wish to encourage networks of participation between United Nations Member States and non-governmental organizations, as well as accountability at the highest levels of the United Nations system. It is essential that Member States have strong and sustained political will so that we can coordinate our efforts to ensure the full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). Let us shoulder our responsibilities to that end.

The President: There are still a number of speakers remaining on my list for this meeting. In view of the lateness of the hour, I intend, with the concurrence of members of the Council, to suspend the meeting until 3 p.m. sharp.

The meeting was suspended at 1.10 p.m.

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5556th meeting

Thursday, 26 October 2006, 3 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Oshima	(Japan)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Estremé
	China	Mr. Li Kexin
	Congo	Mr. Gayama
	Denmark	Mr. Christensen
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Ghana	Mr. Beliwine
	Greece	Mrs. Papadopoulou
	Peru	Ms. Tincopa
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Ansari
	Russian Federation	Mr. Zheglov
	Slovakia	Ms. Halászová
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Pierce
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Manongi
	United States of America	Ms. Phee

Agenda

Women and peace and security

Report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security (S/2006/770)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

06-58804 (E)

The meeting resumed at 3.05 p.m.

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Liechtenstein in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, the representative of Liechtenstein took the seat reserved for him at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: I remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than four minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. Delegations with lengthy statements are kindly requested to circulate the texts in writing and to deliver a condensed version when speaking in the Chamber. I thank representatives in advance for their cooperation.

I give the floor to Mrs. Christine Miturumbwe, Coordinator of the Dushirehamwe Association.

Mrs. Miturumbwe (*spoke in French*): I would like to say how pleased I am to be here today to tell the Security Council and the international community in general about the concerns and expectations of the women of Burundi in the context of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

I would also like to express my gratitude to the United Nations system as a whole for its efforts to help Burundian women throughout the reconciliation process.

Burundi has just emerged from a war that lasted more than 10 years and caused a great deal of harm in both human and material terms. Very recently, in September, the Government and the Forces nationales de libération-Parti pour la libération du peuple hutu (FNL-PALIPEHUTU) signed a ceasefire agreement. Burundian men and women have welcomed that step but remain convinced that sustained efforts must continue with a view to overcoming the many challenges of the peacebuilding period.

Burundian women, who have committed themselves to the quest for peace since independence in 1961, continue to work to mobilize and to heighten awareness of the need for better representation throughout the decision-making process so as to ensure that their rights are an integral part of negotiations. The right of succession, which would guarantee women the right to land and thus provide for their economic security, was among the important issues considered during the Arusha process. Despite progress at the national level, we have to admit that our Constitution and the Electoral Code say nothing about the proper level of representation at the grassroots level. In fact, the national gender policy lacks resources to implement the principles of equality at the national level. Burundian women have been active since the peace talks, and the details of those activities can be found in the documents distributed to you. There have been consultations among women at the national level in the context of implementing resolution 1325 (2000), and the recommendations of those consultations can be summed up as follows.

Concerning good governance and democracy, it is important to ensure constant dialogue between the Government, the political parties and the media. In this dialogue, general interest should take precedence over individual interest. For good, transparent and inclusive governance, it is important not only to ensure cooperation and dialogue at all levels, down to the local level, but also to include all social groups, especially women. In this connection, it should be noted that the principle of a 30-per-cent quota is applied only for a limited portion of the population and is not reflected at the grassroots level. Furthermore, this quota should be 50 per cent.

We recommend that the international community continue to lend its support to Burundi, so that the capacity-building programme for good governance, which includes transparency, proper management of public affairs, democracy and respect for human rights, might remain a priority. A joint committee made up of members of organizations from civil society and Government should be set up to ensure follow-up in the management of all national resources, including resources granted by international organizations. The current quota of 30 per cent should, in fact, be raised to 50 per cent and be applied at the local level. Civil

society should be considered an active partner in all programmes and processes.

Concerning demobilization, disarmament, reintegration and reinsertion (DDRR), we should note that this process is slowly moving forward. Among the important challenges facing Burundi, we should give special attention to the following: circulation of weapons among the population, which is a source of insecurity and constant tension, particularly for women; victims, namely, ex-combatants and persons who have been repatriated or displaced, primarily women, have not yet received restitution and resort to community conflict and violence; the recently established National Commission for Land and Other Property, which was welcomed by women. Unfortunately, its functioning and the implementation of its recommendations require not only mobilization of substantial resources but also know-how and experience in that field. We firmly hope that the new Peacebuilding Commission, established as part of United Nations reform, will make support for the National Commission Land and Other Property one of its priorities. The lack of programmes to help so-called political prisoners who have been released adds to the problem of insecurity.

Failure of the DDRR programme would compromise achievements we have made towards peace and democracy. We recommend that the international community continue to give its political, technical and financial support to the Government of Burundi, so that disarmament, reintegration and reinsertion might become a reality on the ground. The international community should support civil society in Burundi in its efforts to mobilize and promote awareness among the population about the dangers of possession and circulation of weapons in the community and to promote voluntary disarmament. A similar programme could be carried out at the subregional level.

Since the end of hostilities, poverty has continued to increase in Burundi and is affecting, above all, women, who cannot inherit land from their parents and cannot gain title to their husband's land and property. In addition to dependence, corruption and fraud are exacerbating the status of women. Women have always asked that this be given priority in negotiations.

We recommend that the United Nations not hold women hostage to the political situation in Burundi and that women be enabled to have direct access to financing that allows them to undertake and consolidate the work that they have been doing at the grassroots level. Funds allocated by the Peacebuilding Commission should be used for that work. The Commission should ensure follow-up to the implementation of a corruption and fraud focal point that would ensure equitable distribution of public property. The focal point should also respect gender parity.

As for human rights, it should be emphasized that these challenges refer to basic aspects of human rights, for which we would like to make several recommendations in order to promote respect for those rights. Legislation for gender equality and equity should be adopted and applied. There should be an independent national focal point for women's rights to ensure implementation of commitments made by the Government under national legislation and international treaties ratified by Burundi. There should be an end to impunity through the establishment of machinery for transitional justice to deal with rape and murder. That would require the reform and modernization of the police and legal services, which must be professional in spirit and directly accountable to the people. A trust fund should be established to which Member States would contribute for at least five years to enable women who are victims of sexual violence and other abuses to have recourse to justice. There should be support for organizations helping women, in particular United Nations Development Fund for Women, with material, financial and human resources adequate to reach additional beneficiaries.

The President: I now give the floor to Ms. Maria Diaz, President of Rede Feto.

Ms. Diaz (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to thank the members of the Security Council for this opportunity to participate in the open debate and the delegation of Japan for inviting me to describe the situation in East Timor, in particular the role of women in peacebuilding. I represent Rede Feto, a network of women's groups that is present throughout the country. On 28 April, to the surprise and dismay of all the people who have been working so hard to consolidate peace in East Timor, armed conflict broke out again. The crisis was caused by bad governance, weak government institutions, corruption, a lack of respect for basic human rights and the lack of empowerment, which leads to disappointment in youth, who were the

main actors in the conflict. Innocent citizens lost their families and their scant possessions. For example, a woman and her six children were burned alive inside their house, merely because she was the relative of a controversial minister. Many couples are forced to separate temporarily for their security as a result of the North-South conflict. Thousands of students have had to give up their studies for lack of security or because schools have been burned down or merely because they come from the north of the country.

In the struggle for reconstruction, we women have played and continue to play a crucial role. Members of Rede Feto have tried to mediate between the two parties to the current conflict. We made the men sit down at the table, and we invited them to talk to each other. Right now, we are engaged in talks, both with the head of the rebels as well as with the leaders of the armed forces to bring about a meeting between them, so they can discuss the possibility of putting an end to hostilities. In collaboration with other civil society organizations, we are also meeting and working with youth gangs in towns and refugee camps to find out what these boys and girls need in peacetime. These boys and girls have tremendous problems. They need education, work, hope and self-respect.

The fact that the conflict flared up again shows us that there are at least five important elements involved in preventing future outbreaks of violence. First, there is the participation of women and youth, who have been significantly marginalized in the decision-making processes. Their inclusion is particularly urgent, because young people, specifically, young men, are the main perpetrators of the current conflict, having been manipulated in large part to pursue violent acts that were initially carried out by the rebels, the police and the military.

Secondly, the treatment and resolution of trauma is necessary for everyone, in particular, to avoid that the wounds of trauma suffered will create another dangerous situation.

Thirdly, we need economic security. We have to create work opportunities for all male and female persons, in particular, for young people and women.

Fourthly, we need justice. We must bring before the courts all the perpetrators of the acts of violence that took place this year. We must resolve the 2,500 pending cases, most of which involve sexual or domestic violence.

Finally, we need security. It is urgent international police forces throughout Timor-Leste enlarged, particularly in the context of the upcom elections to be held in 2007.

To achieve long-term peace and stability Timor-Leste, we must invest in education and prom a culture of peace and gender balance. It is particula urgent to strengthen the Vulnerable Persons Unit Governmental and civil society mechanism provides support to victims, particularly those w have suffered gender-based violence. It is equa necessary to create a parliamentary committee that v monitor gender balance. Similarly, I would like voice my great satisfaction at the very signific gender content of the recent assessment mission of United Nations to Timor-Leste. I hope that recommendations of the Secretary-General's rep will be implemented and that the organizations t work with women's groups, such as the United Natio Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), will adequately funded.

In view of the foregoing, we have the followi recommendations to make. We call upon the Unit Nations to re-evaluate its activities during the tw years when it was in charge of the Timor-Les Government, in order to identify the weak points th made the flare-up of violence possible. We call upo the United Nations to ensure that all information abo Timor-Leste is transparent and accessible to civ society, so that there is a balance between th information available to the Government and th available to the population. The United Nations mu set up formal mechanisms for consultation that wi enable women and young people of both sexes to b heard. They need the support of women's organizatio and women journalists in carrying out activities disseminate information, to build peace and refor communities.

The President: On behalf of the Council, I agai thank the two speakers from civil society.

Mr. Gayama (Congo) (*spoke in French*): M delegation is grateful to you, Mr. President, for havin taken the welcome initiative of organizing this publi discussion on the topic of women, peace and securit which coincides with the commemoration of the sixt anniversary of the adoption of Security Counc resolution 1325 (2000) on this issue.

First of all, let me express the full gratitude of my delegation to the Secretariat for the quality and clarity of the report submitted to us after only eight months of the initial implementation and integration of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. We also welcome the quality and depth of the analysis given us this morning by Ms. Rachel Mayanja, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General, Ms. Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Ms. Carolyn McAskie, Assistant Secretary-General, Peacebuilding Support Office, and by Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

My delegation generally welcomes the efforts made by the various entities in the United Nations and in Member States that have sought to implement the resolution and the Plan of Action. Resolution 1325 (2000) was historic, since it was the first Security Council resolution to deal exclusively with the issue of women in the context of international peace and security. It was the outcome of years of sustained efforts by non-governmental organizations, Governments and the United Nations. It defined a complete programme for women, peace and security, by emphasizing, inter alia, the need for full and equal participation of women in peacebuilding processes and activities and in gender-specific training for staff participating in peacekeeping operations. The resolution also recognizes that armed conflicts affect women disproportionately and in a special way. It rightly encourages Member States to give all peacekeeping operations personnel special training on male-female relations and ensure adequate representation for woman in all decision-making.

Women are, in most cases, excluded from peace negotiations, in spite of the basic role they play in the prevention of conflicts and in peacebuilding within their communities. The number of women taking part in official negotiations remains limited. Parties to the conflict are, by and large, men, and it is men who, as warriors, sit down around the negotiation table in order to deal with matters that are considered by some to be too serious to be entrusted to peacemakers.

So much the better, we might say, if the image of women were not linked with that of the heroes of the bloodthirsty tales of yore that are so typical of banal machismo, and so much the better if women, in and of themselves, only promoted life and were totally foreign to barbaric warfare. But, without claiming that all women are angels, we still need to establish in the role and place of women in society what relationship they have to peace and security, since no one, neither men nor women, is spared the impact of our common misadventures. Every country and region throughout the world has, if not a full-blown chronicle, at least a hint of such an experience.

The work of the United Nations in this area will only be enhanced if it is coordinated with that carried out by States. By basing its thinking on the Beijing Plan of Action and resolution 1325 (2000), Congo has endeavoured to include a gender-specific approach in all sectors of public life. As a result, Congolese women are involved in the process for the International Conference on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development in the Great Lakes Region. They are playing an active role in the work of thematic groups and in meetings of the regional preparatory committee. They recently played a dynamic role in a meeting of women from the Great Lakes region regarding peace and security. That gathering took place from 6 to 8 February 2006 at Kinshasa and concluded with the adoption of a declaration.

Aware of what is at stake with regard to women's participation in the decision-making process, the Government, working through the department responsible for promoting the status of women and in cooperation with its development partners and civil society, has developed strategies to encourage the participation of Congolese women in the forthcoming elections.

Having been the theatre of successive civil wars from 1993 to 2002, my country fully understands the great price paid by women and young girls in conflict situations. Accordingly, my Government recognizes the need for the full participation of women at every stage of the peace process, in particular in the negotiation and implementation of agreements. Similarly, we are considering measures to protect this vulnerable sector of society from all sorts of violence, especially sexual violence.

Rape continues to take place today in such tragedies as the one taking place in Darfur. Rape continues to serve as a brutal weapon in warfare against women and children, whether in Africa or elsewhere. What we have seen occur in recent years in

Rwanda, Liberia, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan and Kosovo clearly points to the multidimensional nature of the victimization of women, who face wanton and systematic violence as a result of various ideologies. The result is physical, psychological, emotional and social injury that gradually erodes cultural values and social relations, thereby damaging the cohesion and stability of local communities.

It is for that reason that my delegation took note with great interest of the fact that the report (S/2006/770) of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security takes into account gender-specific issues in the major operational areas of action of the Plan, including conflict prevention and early warning, the restoration and consolidation of peace, peacekeeping operations, humanitarian efforts, post-conflict recovery, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, the prevention and prosecution of sexual violence in armed conflict and the prevention and punishment of exploitation and sexual abuse committed by personnel. The inclusion of gender-specific policies in all those areas should make it possible for us to have statistics broken down by sex, which could give us a clearer idea of existing gaps. That should, in turn, promote the implementation of appropriate solutions while taking into account the specific situation of women as regards peace and security.

However, despite the encouraging results outlined in the report of the Secretary-General, there are still many gaps in the implementation of the Action Plan, both within the United Nations and at the level of Member States. In that regard, while my delegation endorses the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General aimed at speeding up the implementation of both the Action Plan and resolution 1325 (2000), we are still concerned about contradictory trends towards centralization or decentralization of the mechanisms to manage gender policy and gender equality within the United Nations itself. My delegation believes that this issue merits further consideration, with a view to achieving balance, coherence and effectiveness in the area of peace and security.

Pending the issuance of the report of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment, my delegation believes that the new cycle for results-based planning constitutes an interesting approach. Nevertheless, we reserve the right to make further comments in due course following the conclusions reached through that important undertaking.

With regard to financing, we should also consider the best ways to adapt resources to priorities. Only flexible, predictable and diligent financing that is based on real needs will make it possible to achieve objectives on the ground. My delegation would therefore like to take this opportunity to appeal to the entire international community to make further efforts to fund activities focused on women, peace and security.

We also approve of the establishment of ethics and discipline teams in peacekeeping operations. We reiterate our support for the zero-tolerance policy in place to address sexual abuse by staff in peacekeeping missions.

Although the progress made has not met our expectations, my delegation believes that more significant progress in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) is not beyond our grasp. That can only be possible, however, through a collective response adapted to real needs. In that regard, my delegation supports the draft presidential statement on women and peace and security proposed by the delegation of Japan for adoption at the conclusion of this meeting.

In conclusion, I should not like to end without referring to the comprehensive dimension of gender issues, which in many respects are part of current concerns about the role of civil society in making proposals and as regards accountability. Gender concerns are among those issues that are often referred to as cross-cutting, as they transcend a number of institutional and thematic borders. If not carefully considered, the manner in which they are dealt with may give rise to adverse results. Examples include praiseworthy efforts at affirmative action that sometimes lead to genuine ghettoization, and action to advance the social standing of the so-called disadvantaged that is used as a convenient excuse to ease the conscience.

It is therefore up to politicians, institutions and actors in society to constantly try to eliminate all ambiguities as to the need to make gender first and foremost a human rights problem. In so doing, we could establish objective links — free of any

condescension or discrimination — between development, combating poverty, accountability and reducing all types of marginalization, as components conducive to promoting the voices and participation of women in society.

There is no doubt that women continue to be burdened by their geographical and cultural environment and the legacy of history. In that regard, human beings can only be defined in their complexity and diversity. What is important is to allow the full potential of that diversity to manifest itself as appropriately as possible in an effort to mobilize the resources, skills and motivation that today's world needs to lend an ever-more humane character to our efforts to address our common challenges.

Ms. Phee (United States of America): The United States would like to congratulate you, Sir, on your selection of this topic for your presidency's thematic discussion. The debate on resolution 1325 (2000) has become an important annual event precisely because it is considered to embrace such a wide range of significant concerns and issues related to the Security Council's responsibility for international peace and security.

As pointed out by the first four speakers this morning, the United Nations must act — and, indeed, in many instances has acted — to acknowledge and strengthen the role of women in peace processes and in post-conflict peacebuilding. Women can, and should, be involved in both making peace and maintaining security following conflict, not only in the sense of patrolling streets, but also as builders of consensus and leaders of reconciliation in post-conflict settings.

Women continue to take on greater roles as agents of change throughout all our societies. That dynamic is a healthy trend that all nations should support and foster. Yet, all too often, women have been largely excluded from formal efforts to develop and implement fresh solutions to seemingly intractable conflicts and their aftermath. Their involvement in those processes to prevent conflict and stop war is essential, and the United States takes seriously the challenge of bringing women, as equals of men, into the mainstream of decision-making and negotiation.

Allow me to cite some examples in which women's involvement in the peace process has had an immediate and lasting impact. One example comes from Sierra Leone, where the Government included the participation of four women in a team of nine in peace talks that led to the development of the Lomé Peace Agreement of 1999. In Liberia, a group called the Mano River Women's Peace Network won the United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights in 2003, due to its involvement and positive influence in both conflict resolution and peacebuilding in that country. The group, compromised of women from Liberia and neighbouring Guinea and Sierra Leone, directly participated in the formal peace talks.

Another African example comes from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where horrendous numbers of women and girls were raped, abducted and physically abused as part of that conflict. Women's groups there played a critical role in shining a light on those abhorrent acts and in combating the stigma faced by the victims. Today, those groups continue an active campaign to mobilize the Government into holding accountable those responsible for crimes against women. I would also note that women are playing a vital and important role in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's democratic transition.

One last example involves Nepal. Women's groups in that country were not only active in pushing for peace, but were instrumental in securing a guarantee of equal rights for women and men in the country's new constitution. That achievement is especially significant given the degree to which women were involved in the conflict, both as combatants and as victims.

Despite those successful examples of and by women to increase and strengthen their role in peacemaking, there remains resistance to the notion that women can make a difference. The exclusion of women from important decision-making and political and social leadership roles is a deeply ingrained tradition in many societies. Changes to that counterproductive tradition will require a conscious, deliberate effort by us all.

In the past, women's traditional roles in society have often been used as an excuse for their exclusion from decision-making and leadership, but the unique roles and perspectives of women are essential to both formal and informal peace processes, especially in addressing entrenched cultures of violence. Because women frequently outnumber men after a conflict — such as in the case of the southern Sudan today, where the ratio of women to men is two to one — they will

have a particularly critical role to play in the implementation of any peace agreement and in building the institutions that will maintain the peace.

Experience increasingly demonstrates that incorporating the efforts of women peacebuilders builds more effective programmes. Their inclusion will advance their rights and lay the groundwork for a more sustainable peace. Therefore, women have not only the right, but the responsibility to be an integral part of all stages of the peace process and the consolidation of peace.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Netherlands.

Mr. Majoor (Netherlands): I would like to fully align myself with the statements made by the representative of Finland on behalf of the European Union and the representative of Slovenia on behalf of the Human Security Network.

Like others, I also would like to extend my thanks to you, Sir, for marking the sixth anniversary of the adoption by the Council of resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security by holding an open debate on the role of women in the consolidation of peace. This subject deserves our full attention and, even more important, concrete action.

If we are really serious about promoting peace and security, we cannot afford to miss a single opportunity to promote women's rights and increase women's participation in peace processes, and it is crucially important at this point in time that women's rights organizations, such as those whose representatives spoke before me, are speaking out. They are calling on their leaders and on us, the international community, to fully include them in the peace processes.

War and conflict affect women, men, girls and boys in different ways. Shocking reports about the widespread occurrence of gender-based violence are almost daily news. In many resolutions and meetings, we condemn this kind of violence, yet it remains increasingly used as an instrument to terrorize civilian populations.

We must turn the tide and take action now. Gender-based violence is not an inevitable consequence of war and conflict. Resolution 1325 (2000) highlighted the importance of women's protection needs, and several United Nations agencies, such as the United Nations Development Programme, are active in reforming the security and justice sectors to ensure that those institutions are responsive to those needs. In that regard, I also should mention the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as a groundbreaking development in the criminalization of sexual and gender-based violence.

What steps has the Netherlands taken to transform resolution 1325 (2000) into action? First, we have established an inter-ministerial task force on women in situations of conflict and peacekeeping to ensure an integrated approach towards the issue. The Ministries of Social Affairs and Employment, Defence, the Interior and Foreign Affairs have brought relevant actors together and raised awareness in support of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). As a result, the Ministry of Defence has set up a gender force to ensure that a gender perspective is embedded in the planning and implementation of peace support operations.

In addition, the Netherlands supports both national and international non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies in advancing the involvement of women in maintaining and promoting sustainable peace. Since 1997, the Government of the Netherlands has, for example, provided support for efforts to ensure the effective involvement of Sudanese women in the peace processes in the Sudan.

As a follow up to resolution 1325 (2000), the Netherlands, together with other partners, has provided the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) with funds for gender expertise to integrate a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations. In the course of this year, together with Norway and the United Kingdom, we undertook a joint donor review of DPKO's implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). Our joint findings in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kosovo, Sierra Leone and Liberia were presented to Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno this week. They include numerous good practices, as well as lessons learned and remaining gaps and challenges. The overall conclusion was that significant progress towards the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) has been made and that the gender advisers are doing an excellent job. However, commitment and accountability are still limited, especially at the senior and middle-management levels. The Netherlands

welcomes the initiative of Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno to issue a clear policy directive to his staff in that regard.

Another challenge is coordination between the security, humanitarian and development pillars on the ground, which is often insufficient, sometimes resulting in overlap in work. Moreover, gender is still not always considered to be an integrated and essential cross-cutting issue in peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts. Those gaps need to be addressed by DPKO, which is in the lead; by the Peacebuilding Commission, which will have to play an important role in that respect; by the United Nations country teams on the ground; and by us all in order to guarantee successful implementation. The overall availability of adequate financial and human resources is key to more sustainable progress and success in the future.

In conclusion, I would like to underline the continued crucial role of the Security Council, including the need for it systematically to integrate resolution 1325 (2000) into its work. It starts by including the gender perspective and a specific, explicit reference to resolution 1325 (2000) in all its resolutions that establish or extend mandates for peacekeeping missions and monitoring their implementation in its subsequent work.

The President: I call on the representative of Iceland.

Mr. Hannesson (Iceland): Iceland, as a member of the European Economic Area, but not a member of the European Union, aligns itself with the statement made earlier by Minister Elisabeth Rehn of Finland on behalf of the European Union. I would like, in addition, to make a few remarks.

I wish first to thank you, Mr. President, for having convened this open debate and giving us the opportunity to discuss Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) concerning women, peace and security. Our thanks also go to the four briefers.

At the outset, my Government would like to express its gratitude to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report on women, peace and security, contained in document S/2006/770.

Resolution 1325 (2000) has put gender issues on the agenda of the Council. The resolution has proved to be an important tool in promoting the direct involvement of women in conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. It is now finally recognized that women have a crucial role to play in peace processes and in achieving sustainable peace in conflict regions.

Since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), considerable attention has been paid to its implementation at the United Nations level. Last year we welcomed the United Nations System-wide Action Plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), as an instrument for mainstreaming a gender perspective throughout the work of this Organization dealing with peace and security. In order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, a gender perspective must be integrated into all strategies and programmes.

The report of the Secretary-General indicates that some progress has been made in the implementation of the System-wide Action Plan, in particular in areas such as peacekeeping and peacemaking. Nonetheless, much more must be done at the United Nations level, both at Headquarters and in the field. We would like to underline the important role of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Support Office in the promotion of the full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). We fully share the opinion of the Secretary-General that gender equality should be recognized as a core issue in the maintenance of peace and security.

We must ensure that the provisions of resolution 1325 (2000) are realized and that women can fully and equally participate in all levels of decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Women must be full agents in the shaping and rebuilding of their communities in the aftermath of war. It is our duty to continue our work towards the full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) at the national, regional and international levels.

Iceland is fully committed to implementing resolution 1325 (2000). That includes promoting the rights of women and girls and mainstreaming gender concerns in the United Nations system and in our foreign policy. In Iceland's Policy on Development Cooperation 2005-2009, special emphasis is placed on the importance of issues related to women in conflict areas. Much of Iceland's development cooperation is directed towards facilitating a smooth transition from conflict situations, with special emphasis on women and their role in peacebuilding.

Mrs. Valgerdur Sverrisdottir, Iceland's Minister for Foreign Affairs, has recently reinforced Iceland's commitment to gender mainstreaming by focusing the work of the Iceland Crisis Response Unit on certain main themes for the selection of projects and peacekeeping operations in the civil spectrum. The aim is to ensure that the overall selection of projects and assignments gives opportunities to women as well as to men.

In that context, Iceland attaches much importance to the valuable work of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in advancing gender equality and women's rights. Iceland has increased its support for the work of UNIFEM more than tenfold in the past two years, and we will increase our support even further. The Icelandic Crisis Response Unit has in recent years seconded a gender expert to UNIFEM in Kosovo. The main objective of the programme is to increase the awareness and obligations of the public administration in the area of women's rights and other women's issues on the basis of United Nations resolutions. The project has now been expanded to six other countries in the Balkan peninsula.

Once again, let me thank you, Mr. President, for having convened this important meeting, and we look forward to further discussions on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

The President: The next speaker on my list is the representative of Uganda.

Mr. Butagira (Uganda): Mr. President, let me join other speakers in thanking you for having convened this important debate.

Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) was a landmark resolution on women, peace and security. Yet, sadly, not much has been done to implement it, in particular in terms of elaborating reporting and monitoring mechanisms.

Women have suffered a great deal in armed conflict. They have been victims of rape and related violence. They have even suffered at the hands of some peacekeepers, who, ironically, were supposed to be protecting them. Very often they also find themselves the sole breadwinners if their husbands have left to fight or have died in the fighting. Yet their role in conflict resolution is minimal, if not non-existent. It is therefore important to mainstream a gender perspective in the work of institutions such as the recently created Peacebuilding Commission. The role of women also should be emphasized in peacekeeping missions.

The question also arises of involving women, to the extent possible, in peace negotiations. Usually it is up to the parties to the conflict to constitute their delegations. We can only say that it is advisable that they include women in their delegations. If they are not direct participants, they can certainly be observers. My delegation calls on the Security Council and the Secretary-General to take steps to realize this proposal.

Staffing positions in relevant institutions dealing with peacekeeping and peacebuilding should also incorporate a gender perspective. This is not necessarily to say that there should be affirmative action, but I believe that there is a pool of women well qualified to be considered on their merits.

I would like now to touch on the issue of gender-based violence against women and the issue of impunity. There should be zero tolerance for impunity. In that regard, I would draw the attention of the Council to the atrocities committed against women by the so-called Lord's Resistance Army in northern Uganda. Uganda is a partner with the International Criminal Court (ICC) in making sure that the perpetrators of those crimes are made to answer for their heinous actions.

But all are also aware that there are ongoing peace talks in Juba, in southern Sudan, between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army, aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the long-running conflict. Despite some obstacles, progress has been made, and the Ugandan Government is determined that the talks will succeed. In the event of a comprehensive agreement being reached, the Government of Uganda has offered amnesty to the indicted leaders of the Lord's Resistance Army. We have to balance the need for justice with the imperatives of peace and stability in northern Uganda. I must make it clear, though, that we are not condoning impunity. There are traditional ways of punishing perpetrators, while at the same time achieving justice and reconciliation, including the provision of reparations to the victims.

The Government of Uganda has appointed a team of lawyers to study this Acholi tradition and to make sure no impunity is condoned. The Government will make sure that the traditional system is consistent with

international standards for dealing with impunity. In this direction, we are walking in step with the International Criminal Court.

Mrs. Papadopoulou (Greece): Let me begin by thanking you, Mr. President, for having taken the initiative to organize this debate pursuant to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), focusing in particular on the roles of women in the consolidation of peace.

I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his Report on women, peace and security (S/2006/770), which accurately depicts the progress achieved so far in the context of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

Greece fully aligns itself with the statement that was made this morning by the representative of Finland on behalf of the European Union. We also endorse the statement made by the representative of Slovenia on behalf of the Human Security Network.

Today's meeting offers us the opportunity to share some thoughts regarding the role of women in peace and security. It is indeed encouraging that since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) public awareness has considerably risen and public opinion has become more sensitive regarding the position of women in armed conflict and their positive role in the consolidation of a peaceful environment in post-conflict situations. Special tribute should be paid to civil society both for its contribution to the advancement of the status of women and for its recognition of the role that women can play in promoting peace, which has been acknowledged ever since the First World Conference on Women in 1975.

Unfortunately, this positive trend has not been coupled with the termination of violence against women in conflict situations. The Security Council's adoption this year of resolution 1674 (2006), on the protection of civilians, is yet another milestone in the protection of women in armed conflict. That resolution condemns in the strongest terms all acts of violence or abuses committed against civilians, including gender-based and sexual violence, and recognizes that flagrant and widespread violations of international humanitarian and human rights law may constitute a threat to international peace and security. We hope that this step, along with the relevant provisions of international humanitarian and international human rights law, will help put an end to tolerance of violence against civilians, including women, as well as to impunity.

Let us recall that the things we agreed upon during the 2005 World Summit — development, peace, security and human rights, the pillars of the United Nations system and the foundations for collective security and well-being — are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. Women have an important role to play in each and every stage, from conflict prevention to post-conflict reconstruction and stabilization.

Strengthening the rule of law and, within that, protecting the full enjoyment of human rights by women and advancing gender equality are significant aspects of conflict prevention. The incorporation of the gender dimension in early warning activities and the actual use of that factor, both as an indicator contributing to a more comprehensive assessment of emerging conflicts and as an incentive to the timely planning of gender-sensitive programmes, are certainly very positive steps. We therefore very much welcome the participation of women in early warning and conflict prevention work.

In peacekeeping, the incorporation of the gender perspective from the early phases of planning and its mainstreaming into mission mandates is of equal importance. Training of personnel, be it humanitarian, civilian or military, is necessary for increasing awareness and above all, for ensuring compliance with the appropriate standards of behaviour and conduct. I believe we can all agree that the best way to make sure that these aims are met is to actively involve women themselves. The goal of the increased participation of women is provided for in many international legal instruments, such as the Charter of the United Nations, resolution 1325 (2000) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). With a view to honouring that commitment, Greece has ratified both CEDAW and its Optional Protocol, and has established an office of gender equality in the Ministry of National Defence.

Regarding peacebuilding, I cannot fail to make a special reference to the Peacebuilding Commission and the discussion organized yesterday by the United Kingdom in the form of an Arria-style meeting. Peacebuilding is a broad notion, encompassing, inter alia, the restoration of the rule of law, the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration process and security-sector reform. Yesterday's Arria-style

meeting gave us the opportunity to stress the importance of taking into account the gender perspective in all those areas. But most of all, the process of peace building cannot but be tightly linked to sustainable development and the creation of a viable economic environment.

There can be no sustainable peace and security without development, and the empowerment of women is key to all development efforts and their prospects for success. That was duly recognized in the Millennium Declaration, the promotion of gender equality being a Millennium Development Goal in itself — and rightly so, because discrimination against women seriously impedes the eradication of poverty and the combating of contagious diseases such as HIV/AIDS. Limited access to primary education and non-equitable access to employment power the vicious circle of poverty and discrimination.

One cannot but stress the importance of incorporating the gender perspective in development policies, including poverty-reduction strategies. Taking this fully into account, Greece finances development projects fostering gender equality, promoting maternal and reproductive health and focusing on combating human trafficking, especially of women and girls.

I will conclude my intervention by making a reference to the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Mr. Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh, with his famous microfinance banking system, has chosen to give loans primarily to women living in poor areas for the establishment of small enterprises. That initiative has created a remarkably solid basis for economic development, demonstrating the crucial role that women can play in this respect and thus in consolidating peace.

Mr. Manongi (United Republic of Tanzania): We too thank the delegation of Japan for organizing this important debate on women and peace and security. In our view it is important for the Security Council to continue examining how resolution 1325 (2000) can best be implemented. We are therefore grateful for the insightful introductions this morning by Ms. Mayanja, Mr. Guéhenno, Ms. Heyzer and Ms. McAskie, as well as those by the representatives of civil society this afternoon. We wish to associate ourselves with the statement to be made later by the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Lesotho on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

We welcome the report of the Secretary-General (S/2006/770) on the review of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). We are encouraged by the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan. The challenge is to sustain the momentum and progress achieved while striving to overcome the gaps and challenges in the implementation of the Action Plan. In this regard, we support the Secretary-General's recommendation that the Action Plan be renewed beyond 2007. The wealth of knowledge, information and good practices that have been gathered in the implementation process needs to be widely shared.

While there is a wide consensus on the positive contributions that women bring to peacebuilding and to consultations on peace, their effective participation cannot happen without aid, for the magnitude of the challenges we face remains great. In the name of tradition, culture or even security, women have continued to be excluded from decision-making with respect to conflicts. Too often they have been set aside while men brokered peace agreements. Thankfully, more and more women are challenging this viewpoint and are increasingly demanding involvement as stakeholders in their communities. Their potential as peacebuilders must be harnessed.

Concerted efforts are required to support and strengthen the capacities of women and their networks so that they can participate in all processes of peacebuilding and peace consolidation. In this regard, we commend the efforts that have been undertaken by various stakeholders, in particular those in the United Nations system and civil society and various national political leaders, in promoting the participation of women in peacebuilding and peace consolidation processes.

While we are encouraged by the increased participation of women in countries emerging from conflict, we are still concerned with the low representation of women across all areas and levels of decision-making processes. Affirmative action is a strategy that ought to be considered in areas that have significantly low representation. This is an important measure in all societies that have to address existing gaps.

In addition to addressing this shortcoming, women in conflict and post-conflict situations also need support to ensure that their voices can articulate issues of their concern and that they are heard and taken into account. In this regard, gender equality advocacy needs to be addressed consistently, not as a single event. Men and boys also have a role to play in the promotion of women's rights and gender equality, and we need to actively engage them as well.

The promotion of gender equality needs the commitment of the political leadership and needs institutions that are gender-sensitive. The creation and strengthening of national gender machinery in countries emerging from conflict need to be supported, so as to facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the various gender-equality and women's advancement instruments, including resolution 1325 (2000).

We note with concern persistent violations of women's rights and, in particular, gender-based sexual violence perpetrated against women in conflict and post-conflict situations. We strongly condemn all such violations. The perpetrators of these violations need to be prosecuted, and redress must be made to women who have faced such horrific acts.

In addition to protection from gender-based and sexual violence, women need justice in many other arenas, such as access to and control of productive resources, for example, land. The economic empowerment of women is necessary if we are to protect women and children from their vulnerability to sexual violence and abuse, exploitation and HIV/AIDS infection. In this regard, the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in judicial reform and the security sector needs to supported as a priority issue.

While strongly condemning all acts of sexual violence, it is encouraging to observe how the Secretariat, especially the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, is confronting unlawful practices in peacekeeping missions. We support measures undertaken by the Secretary-General to curb these shameful crimes. We urge all troop-contributing countries to ensure that personnel are well informed and properly trained to prevent the commission of such offences. Furthermore, all acts of violations should be investigated and the culprits brought to justice.

We are encouraged by the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission. The Commission, given adequate resources, has a significant role to play in addressing gender equality in all spheres, and in particular during the process of developing country strategies for peace consolidation. The Peacebuilding Commission and its Support Office will, however, require capacity-building and support in its endeavours to mainstream a gender perspective. In this regard, we would encourage that a gender expert be included in the Support Office.

Resolution 1325 (2000) makes it clear that we can no longer afford to neglect the abuses to which women and girls are subjected during armed conflicts and in their aftermath; nor can we ignore women's contributions in the search for peace. We have a responsibility to support the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) as a way of harnessing women's contributions to peacebuilding, to our communities and to our countries.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Japan.

Six years after the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), it is again time to take stock of the progress made and renew our commitment to move towards achieving the goals set out in this important resolution.

The consolidation of peace encompasses an endeavour and a process that require a comprehensive approach, involving all stakeholders and sustained international support, including that of the United Nations. Women play critical roles in such endeavours and processes, and landmark resolution 1325 (2000) has contributed significantly to enhancing women's ability to fully commit themselves to rebuilding their communities, ensuring sustainable peace and preventing the recurrence of conflict. This has been and continues to be an essential pillar in the consolidation of peace.

I take this opportunity to commend all the efforts made by the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, by the United Nations Development Fund for Women and by all other development, humanitarian, human rights and advocacy agencies, organizations and groups, both inside and outside the United Nations system, for promoting the goals set out in resolution 1325 (2000), while fully admitting that there still remains a lot that needs to be done.

We welcome the fact that, in the Peacebuilding Commission, which is focusing on Sierra Leone and Burundi, the importance of integrating gender perspectives into peacebuilding activities is specifically and emphatically noted. We expect that the outcome of today's debate, along with useful suggestions that have been made, will be reflected appropriately in the work of the Peacebuilding Commission so as to further assist in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

In our view, the debate on the role of women and peace and security and the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) should inform and be informed by the concept of human security and the people-centred approach that it advocates. Promoting the empowerment of each individual and protecting individuals from threats to their safety and basic well-being is the ultimate goal of human security. Implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) should contribute to enhancing human security for women. It should also promote institutional reforms that integrate the needs and priorities of women so as to strengthen their empowerment and protection.

As part of its efforts to promote human security in practice on the ground, Japan helped set up the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security in 1999. During the past few years, the Trust Fund has supported over 160 projects in more than 90 countries and regions, and many of them have contributed towards the empowerment and protection of women and children. With this end in mind, many of the projects approved under the Trust Fund are implemented in partnership with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society groups active in this field. One example is that of a local NGO, Dushirehamwe, in Burundi, coordinated by Ms. Christine Miturumbwe, who delivered a statement here today. Among other activities, Dushirehamwe is implementing a project that aims to help returnees and internally displaced women to improve their economic capacities, thereby facilitating communal reconciliation and coexistence between the local population and the returnees and internally displaced persons.

Women's participation has enormous significance in ensuring the consolidation of peace and community reconstruction. Resolution 1325 (2000) provides the necessary framework, and it needs to be implemented with all the vigour and support it deserves, and Japan intends to continue to do its utmost to contribute to that end.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

At this juncture, I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Comoros, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda.

In accordance with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Abound (Comoros) took a seat at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Colombia.

Mrs. Blum (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me to congratulate you, Sir, upon your management of the presidency of the Security Council for this month. We are pleased that Japan has decided to convene this open debate a few days before 31 October — the sixth anniversary of the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security.

We thank Ms. Rachel Mayanja, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, for her presentation of the report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security. The report notes the progress in the application of the System-wide Action Plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) throughout the entire United Nations system, and the difficulties that were encountered, including those relative to the analysis of gender problems and the incorporation of a gender perspective within the Organization. The commitment to agree on and coordinate action within the United Nations system and among Member States is essential to achieving the goals of resolution 1325 (2000).

Resolution 1325 (2000) has the firm support of Colombia, one of the countries that promoted it and as a member of the group of friends that drives its

implementation and dissemination. Colombia presented a report to the Secretary-General in 2004 on the progress made in its implementation.

Aware that the main responsibility in the implementation of the resolution falls on Member States, Colombia has moved ahead with its implementation in legislation and through special programmes that have the cooperation and support of the United Nations system. The United Nations Development Fund for Women has been an important ally since Colombia's peace and security programme was created in 2003. Colombia has also adopted laws to protect women and promote their participation. Colombia's legislation favours female-headed households and guarantees that women will fill 30 per cent of public posts at decision-making levels in the different branches and organs of public administration. The legislation has had an incremental effect on their participation.

The dissemination and promotion of resolution 1325 (2000) has been a constant priority in the coordinated work of the Presidential Advisory Office on the Equality of Women, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

My country actively participated in the first training course on gender, conflict and peacebuilding in the Andean region, which was held in Lima in October 2005, under the auspices of Women Waging Peace. One month later, a similar event was held in Bogotá, with the wide participation of the public sector and representatives of civil society and academia in order to promote resolution 1325 (2000) and highlight elements that can incorporate the gender perspective into peacebuilding programmes, policies and actions.

The democratic security policy applied in Colombia is based on a comprehensive vision that involves not only the security aspect, but also components of social equity and human development. Within that framework, Colombia has a social reform policy that works towards, among other objectives, greater gender equality.

We deploy seven tools to that end: educational revolution, social protection, the promotion of economic solidarity, the social management of rural areas and public services, the democratization of property possession, and a guaranteed quality of life in urban areas. Each of those mechanisms includes a follow-up mechanism.

As the result of legislation adopted by Congress, the Presidential Advisory Office for the Equality of Women created the post of observer on gender issues that is responsible for incorporating the gender perspective in the analysis of the results achieved in the aforementioned areas.

In order to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), our National Development Plan, set out in the chapter on social equity, is mandated to carry out policies in favour of women pursuant to cross-cutting gender criteria coordinated by the Presidential Advisory Office for the Equality of Women. The Advisory Office — the guiding entity for governmental policies in that field — has outlined a policy on women as peacebuilders and promoters of development. That is the starting point from which to articulate objectives, strategies and actions aimed at the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

The Advisory Office also promoted a national agreement on equality between men and women. That agreement has special significance to the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) as it not only advances the incorporation of a gender perspective into public policy, but also strengthens the participation of women based on conditions equal to those of men in all areas of society.

The Government of Colombia is firmly committed to the achievement of the goals of women, the promotion and protection of their rights, and the advancement of their full participation in public life. One of the goals for the period 2006-2010 is the inclusion of a gender perspective in the foreign policy and international cooperation agenda, with an emphasis on social development issues.

Since 2002, my Government, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Presidential Advisory Office for the Equality of Women, has coordinated efforts to implement resolution 1325 (2000). One of those initiatives was the creation of a framework on women, peace and security that ultimately adopted a common agenda on the issue of women and their incorporation into priority actions for peace in Colombia.

I would like to stress that, for the Government of Colombia, building and maintaining peace should not be limited to reaching peace accords with illegal armed groups. The Government has always kept in mind the need to maintain and strengthen peace through social,

economic and political reforms in order to achieve greater rates of economic growth and employment, and thus to greater access to, and opportunities for education, health and social security. We are convinced that this is the only way to build societies that are more just and democratic and to give women the place they deserve within the framework of development and social equality.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Guatemala.

Mrs. Briz Gutiérrez (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): I wish to begin by thanking you, Sir, for convening this dialogue and the representatives of the Secretariat for the interesting and inspiring briefings we have heard this morning. They have set the tone for today's discussion.

Since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), Guatemala has supported Council members' efforts to ensure its ongoing and comprehensive implementation. We have seen the growing interest throughout the world in the situation of women and girl children in armed conflict. We have strenuously condemned the persistence of gender-based violence in conflict situations, as well as sexual exploitation, violence in general and abuse.

We have also stressed the need to put an end to the impunity of the perpetrators so as to bring peace, justice and genuine reconciliation to conflict areas, thereby ensuring that the social fabric of communities does not deteriorate further and in order to construct a lasting and robust peace.

Guatemala suffered more than three decades of armed conflict, and during the negotiations on Guatemala's peace agreements signed in 1996, an entire section specifically referring to the importance of the role of women in maintaining peace, in particular indigenous women, was incorporated. There is also an entire section on the importance of women's participation in strengthening the impact of civil society. In that connection, we share Ms. McAskie's vision of the catalytic role and comparative advantages that the Peacebuilding Commission can have in that respect in situations on the ground.

We also thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2006/770), which discussed frankly and comprehensively the shortcomings in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), thus making it possible to adopt the collective measures needed to correct them. At the same time, it pointed out the opportunities that the Action Plan offers for the resolution's implementation and recognized the progress made so far.

We wish to highlight the work accomplished by the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women in implementing resolution 1325 (2000) and the Action Plan. We thank the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women for preparing the guide for national action planning entitled "Securing Equality, Engendering Peace", which will undoubtedly assist in national capacity-building with a gender perspective.

We wish to express our gratitude to all of the system's agencies and funds that have worked to ensure women's participation at all stages of peacekeeping and peacebuilding processes — particularly the United Nations Development Fund for Women, which has been promoting the participation of Guatemalan women in electoral processes and in leadership training in communities and local governments since 1997. We also thank the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, which has contributed to the effort to increase women's participation in Guatemalan contingents on United Nations missions.

As we say in my country, there is a wide gap between words and deeds. The objective of gender equality is still far from being attained, despite the fact that it is established in the Charter, reiterated in various instruments of international law and emphasized in resolution 1325 (2000). It is regrettable that, as the report reveals, six years after the adoption of the Security Council resolution and 61 years after the establishment of the United Nations, only 26.07 per cent of the Council's resolutions include language relating to women or gender. That shows us that our level of compliance with the commitments undertaken in the area of women's advancement still falls well below expectations. More support is needed in this area, where it is most lacking.

In Guatemala, we understand very well the importance of women's participation in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes in their communities of origin. A gender perspective must be systematically incorporated into all the multifaceted efforts of Member States and of the United Nations and should become a primary component of their policies,

programmes and activities. But, above all, it must be a central theme in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Guatemala's army has included women since it resumed its participation in peacekeeping operations. Currently, out of the 85 Guatemalan personnel deployed in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, seven are women. For the first time in our history, a woman lieutenant has been appointed to command an operations unit. There are also seven women among the 114 Guatemalan soldiers deployed in the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

For all those reasons, our delegation agrees with the measures recommended by the Secretary-General in his report, particularly the establishment of an effective accountability, monitoring and reporting system for a new cycle of the Action Plan, which will be renewed in 2007. We hope that it will cover the entire system. We agree that the renewal should be prepared in accordance with the conclusions and measures set out in the report. In particular, we support the Action Plan's renewal to make it a tool for results-based programming, monitoring and reporting.

We also believe that heads of units, special representatives and envoys of the Secretary-General should be held responsible for mainstreaming a gender perspective into policies and programmes. Moreover, we should strengthen capacity for full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), improve coordination of the system, particularly on the ground, and provide incentives for the participation of all interested sectors of civil society.

Not to involve women and girls at all levels of capacity-building in the area of peacebuilding would be to make them the most vulnerable group, shown no mercy by the enemies of peaceful coexistence.

The President: I now call upon the representative of Indonesia.

Mrs. Asmady (Indonesia): My delegation thanks you, Mr. President, for convening this important meeting and the Secretary-General for his timely report (S/2006/770) on the progress being made in putting into effect the United Nations System-wide Action Plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

The report presents us with a mixed picture of opportunities seized and opportunities missed. According to the report, the Plan is being implemented in a limited way by some specialized agencies. But, some challenges remain, such as inadequate understanding of gender analysis and mainstreaming, poor leadership and commitment with regard to the Plan's implementation, weak coordination and insufficient use of available expertise. To meet those challenges, there must be a general change in attitudes and perceptions regarding the importance of women as peacemakers and peacekeepers.

Even now, after much effort to make gender mainstreaming commonplace throughout the United Nations system, it remains true that not all United Nations agencies and bodies focus on or mention gender in their work. Nevertheless, the report provides the basis for some optimism about the future, especially in relation to women's role in the system's peacekeeping and peacemaking activities. But, much more needs to be done in that area.

However, what continues to be a matter of concern after eight months of the Plan's implementation is weak coordination, which can be included among the institutional gaps and challenges affecting the United Nations system. System-wide efforts to infuse gender into peace and security matters would greatly improve if overlapping and duplication were to be minimized. Agencies must be made aware of what their counterparts are doing and should not engage in the same activities. Remedying that situation will require better dissemination and sharing of information among United Nations bodies.

My delegation underlines the urgent need for further action to accelerate the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) by the relevant United Nations entities, particularly in their efforts to continue their vigorous and multi-pronged engagement with Member States.

My delegation takes note of the measures adopted by various United Nations entities to implement the resolution at the national and community levels. However, it is essential that such endeavours be undertaken in full consultation with national authorities.

At the international level, the establishment of a working group or focal point on women, peace and security within the Security Council, in keeping with

the recommendations in the report, should also be given full consideration. But it would be equally beneficial if, as proposed in the report, the Council were to permit wider participation by the United Nations membership in its work. That would increase sensitivity regarding the issue of women's actual and potential contributions to peace and security and strengthen commitment in that regard.

Indonesia believes that the implementation of the Action Plan represents the first phase in achieving a well-coordinated, results-based, system-wide strategy. If it is to succeed, that strategy will require committed, sensitive leadership throughout the United Nations system, actively supported by women in decision-making positions, whose actions will help to consolidate peace. It would also be good protocol if the Council were to interact more closely with other major United Nations organs so as to enrich its insight in terms of taking action and to achieve better decision-making.

The President: The next speaker is the representative of Bangladesh, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. Chowdhury (Bangladesh): I would be remiss if I did not begin by applauding the Japanese presidency for its effective stewardship of this forum. I would also like to thank you, Sir, for your initiative in having organized this open debate. It is on a subject dear to our hearts.

It has been six years since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000). This landmark resolution — one with which Bangladesh, as a member of the Council at the time, was closely associated — was based primarily on the simple thesis of equal access for and full participation of women at all levels of the power structure. The role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts has been an essential element in bringing about and sustaining peace and security. To this effect, the Bangladeshi presidency of the Security Council issued a statement on Women's Day in March 2000. Eventually, that statement culminated in the resolution. Needless to say, Bangladesh is deeply committed to its full and effective implementation.

Women suffer most as the victims of conflict. In peace processes they are mostly deprived of the dividends, their voices are not fully listened to — or even heard. Six years after resolution 1325 (2000), we need to reflect further on how best to advance its goal. We need to analyse the challenges and how they can be overcome. We need to ensure the adequate representation of women at all levels of decision-making in conflict prevention. This must include early-warning mechanisms, both during hostilities and during post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Women's effective participation in peace negotiations is measured not in numbers but in terms of their decision-making power. It is undeniable that in the consolidation of peace the role of women remains vital.

We welcome the review of the System-wide Action Plan this year. We hope that we will succeed in overcoming its weaknesses through concerted efforts in the years to come. It is our hope that in integrating a gender perspective across the broad spectrum of the United Nations system, geographical, cultural and ethnic factors will be borne in mind. Adequate resources should also be mobilized to that effect. The active involvement of civil society and non-governmental organizations is a sine qua non in this respect.

Based on our national experience, we believe that gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women are categorical imperatives for development, as well as for social stability. Access to education and health care, combined with the provision of microcredit facilities, can unleash the entrepreneurial skills of women. Women's empowerment tends to marginalize extremist thought and action in the community. This addresses a root cause of violence and terror. The award of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize to microcredit pioneer Professor Yunus of the Grameen Bank clearly demonstrates the linkage between poverty alleviation, women's empowerment and peace.

Bangladesh, despite many and varied constraints, has set an example in this domain. It stands ready to share best practices with others of comparable milieu.

The overall experience in implementing resolution 1325 (2000) at all levels of decision-making has been mixed. Sadly, violence against women continues to occur in war. That is also the case in times of peace. We have integrated gender perspectives into some aspects of United Nations peacekeeping operations. However, in post-conflict peacebuilding efforts, much remains to be done. As one of the largest troop-contributing countries to United Nations peacekeeping operations, Bangladesh is ever-conscious

of its responsibilities to incorporate essential elements of resolution 1325 (2000) in the pre-deployment training of peacekeepers.

As a member of the Peacebuilding Commission, we will remain vigilant in our focus on the provisions of resolution 1325 (2000). That was evident during deliberations on Sierra Leone and Burundi. We will also do our best to ensure that our exhortations to all United Nations agencies in this regard remain sustained.

We believe that the protection of women and girls from gender-based violence and abuse is a primary and enduring responsibility. There should be zero tolerance with respect to the perpetrators. We will brook no impunity in this regard. All would agree that that is truly a noble goal; indeed, a nobler goal would be hard to find.

The President: I thank the representative of Bangladesh for his kind words addressed to the presidency. I believe that it would also be appropriate here for me to express our congratulations to Bangladesh on the award to Mr. Muhammad Yunus of the Nobel Peace Prize.

I now call on the representative of Spain.

Mrs. Escobar (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): Spain welcomes the initiative of the Japanese presidency to hold this open debate on the role of women in peacebuilding.

Spain aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Finland on behalf of the European Union.

The question of the role of women in peacebuilding is of great relevance, because in the transitional processes that follow conflict, the foundation of a democratic and equal society can be created — provided that the needs and priorities of women and men are considered throughout the process. Such efforts must be based on respect for human rights and must reflect an awareness of the differences and inequalities between the sexes, which can be exacerbated at the end of a conflict if women and girls are prevented from fully participating in and benefiting from reconstruction processes.

In that regard, a number of elements are required. There must be equal participation by men and women in efforts to maintain peace and security. A gender perspective must be integrated into all aspects of peacebuilding, thereby guaranteeing that all the needs of women, girls, men and boys are placed on an equal footing in a systematic manner. Women and girls must be protected from sexual abuse and gender-based violence, and impunity must be ended. This means including women, who are usually relegated to a secondary role, in decision-making processes leading to the adoption of necessary institutional, judicial, political, educational and economic changes.

Promoting equality at all levels is more difficult when resources are lacking and when women's initiatives are marginalized. Plans of action are useful tools to that end and require efficient review mechanisms and, of course, funding, ideally from regular budgets. Women and children in the field can, with international assistance, obtain employment and realize not only their political rights but all of the rights to which they are entitled. The issue of reparations for victims has been the subject of in-depth consideration by the panel of experts established at the request of the Secretary-General, under the chairmanship of Prince Zeid Al-Hussein of Jordan, which has issued a very enlightening report. Spain is gratified to see that a new panel of experts has been formed with such a mandate.

The Security Council should consider the possibility of creating a focal point responsible for gender issues and other issues relating to the effective implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). The importance of the resolution must transcend the necessary and thought-provoking celebration of the anniversary on 31 October of the unanimous adoption of the resolution. Since 2000, only 39 of the Security Council's 261 resolutions or texts have contained any reference to gender issues. Only five of the 59 resolutions adopted in 2004 dealt with the issue of violence against women, and only eight made reference to resolution 1325 (2000).

Spain attaches great importance to the effective implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). In 2004, the then Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain jointly signed an article entitled "Women, peace and security", which, inter alia, deplored the lack of participation of women in peace processes.

In that same year, in the Security Council, Spain highlighted the importance of the Council's giving

serious consideration to the establishment of a permanent mechanism for the effective follow-up of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in the context of the various conflict situations that it deals with on an ongoing basis.

In another development, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) prepared a document containing the main guidelines of its gender policy, which include the requirements set out in resolution 1325 (2000). Spain, which will hold the chairmanship of the OSCE in 2007, intends to disseminate information about, and promote and organize events based on, the resolution, giving it the importance it deserves.

The most recent guiding plan for Spanish cooperation, for the period 2003-2008, attaches priority to items on conflict resolution as well as gender issues in development policies. The implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) is a key objective for the Spanish Government. Spain, whose official development assistance in the area of gender-related issues has increased by 70 per cent in the past two years, is participating in projects aimed at safeguarding the human rights of women and children, particularly as regards the economic and political empowerment of women in conflict and post-conflict situations and in peacebuilding processes — in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Lebanon, Iraq, as well as in other areas of high priority for Spanish cooperation such as sub-Saharan Africa, for instance, in Mozambique.

Spain intends to support UNIFEM, with which it is already cooperating, in the context of ongoing projects in Liberia, whose Minister for Gender and Development participated in a panel this past Monday.

The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), with Spanish cooperation funding, has in 2006 developed plans for the empowerment of women at the local and national levels in various reconstruction processes, particularly in Latin America.

In conclusion, the Spanish Government has established a group of experts, which includes the ministers concerned and independent experts from the academic world and civil society, whose goal is to draft a national action plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). We expect the plan to be completed sometime next year.

The President: The next speaker on my list is the representative of Fiji.

Mr. Kau (Fiji): Mr. President, I should like to thank you and the members of the Council for the opportunity to speak on the subject of women, peace and security.

Fiji aligns itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum.

We thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2006/770) on women, peace and security. The report has identified the gaps and opportunities presented by the System-wide Action Plan and accordingly provides for some remedies. We urge the Council to adopt its recommendations, and we also call on Member States to play their respective roles as necessary.

Fiji regards Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) as the international instrument guiding national policies and practices in all aspects of conflict prevention, peace negotiations and post-conflict reconstruction. More importantly, the resolution is the authority on gender dimensions and the role of women in these areas, in particular in peacekeeping and peacebuilding. We therefore support the call for the expeditious implementation of actions that would enhance and accelerate the implementation of the resolution, in particular by the United Nations system through the engagement of Member States and other actors.

All parts of the United Nations system must, in partnership with Member States, own and drive the process if the gender equality measures outlined in the resolution are to be realized.

We also call on the international community and partners to help Member States in need of assistance in the implementation process. An area needing immediate attention is the development of national action plans as a remedy for unsystematic and ad hoc implementation at the national level. Small developing countries such as Fiji need guidance and partnerships in the areas of capacity and technical skills on the formulation and implementation of national plans and strategies based on resolution 1325 (2000). Such action plans and strategies must be developed after wide consultations with civil society organizations and other stakeholders and should include monitoring and reporting mechanisms.

For six years, the Security Council has been seized of the issue, but, despite the achievement of some milestones, — which include the formulation of the Plan — we believe that more could be achieved. The options of a focal point and an expert-level working group to ensure the effective integration of the resolution into the Council's work are propositions that Fiji continues to advocate. As a member of the inaugural Peacebuilding Commission, we will be calling for more active efforts from both the Commission and the Support Office to ensure effective action-oriented programmes to ensure for women's involvement in peacebuilding.

Our Pacific leaders, at their meeting held in Nadi, Fiji, this week, reaffirmed their commitment to the operationalization of resolution 1325 (2000) in Forum Island countries. The secretariat of the Forum has been charged with providing appropriate technical assistance to member countries through the frameworks of the Pacific Plan and the 2000 Biketawa Declaration.

We also commend other partners, and in particular the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), which has been a strong player in advancing the resolution through its programmes on women, peace and security in the region, for their support and assistance in national programmes. Fiji has been a direct beneficiary of UNIFEM support programmes in the Pacific, for which we are grateful, and we ask other United Nations agencies to follow suit.

A project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) — "Resolution 1325 for policy makers and non-governmental organizations" — in Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Fiji will see the training of a core group of women's non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and key policymakers on resolution 1325 (2000), ensure its translation into local languages and adopt appropriate strategies for its implementation.

Women in Fiji have been active in peacekeeping efforts, even though we continue to be confronted with challenges and limitations that include a lack of capacity and of an appropriate policy to ensure their full integration and empowerment. It is in that regard that we seek greater assistance and partnership opportunities, including the sharing of experiences, to enhance the participation of our women in peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Gender training conducted by the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre for some Fiji police and military units, particularly those involved in peacekeeping activities, is an example of effective partnership at the local level.

In Fiji's Women's Plan of Action 1999-2008 we have clearly acknowledged our commitment to the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) by bringing about further progress in gender equality through various empowerment strategies for women in Fiji. Whilst we have yet to fully realize the potential of our women, the prevalent political will and the efforts of our Government and civil society, coupled with the support of United Nations agencies and the international community, should yield positive results with respect to the implementation of the resolution in Fiji and the Pacific region.

The President: I now call on the representative of Guinea.

Mr. Sow (Guinea) (*spoke in French*): Mr. President, I would like to thank you for your welcome initiative in holding this public debate on women and peace and security, and focusing it on the roles of women in the consolidation of peace. I am grateful to you for the important concept paper (S/2006/793, annex) which you have given us as a guide. I would like to commend all those who have spoken from the Secretariat and the various bodies concerned for the richness of their statements.

As we meet following the commencement of the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund, it is up to us to give new political and operational impetus to the implementation of the commitments, strategies and plans of action that have been adopted and pertaining, inter alia, to conflict prevention and management and to post-conflict peacebuilding.

In order to achieve the objectives by the deadlines, we should fully support the implementation of the principles highlighted in the background text provided by the President of the Security Council aiming, in particular, at achieving the participation of women on an equal footing in the maintenance and building of peace and security; protecting women and girls against violations of their rights, especially sexual and sexist violence and the trafficking of women, and taking measures to put an end to impunity; ensuring the participation of women on an equal footing in decision-making bodies and in policies, programmes,

budgets and institutional reforms at the local, national, regional and international levels; and providing sufficient technical and financial assistance for training and capacity-building, research and documentation on women.

Beyond the implementation of these principles, special attention should be given to certain key aspects of the follow-up to resolution 1325 (2000) as they pertain to the complex challenges of peacebuilding. Therefore, it would be desirable, first, at the national level, to support women's initiatives and actions in order to promote peace and reconciliation; to ensure a smooth transition towards sustainable development; to guide the Government and all national stakeholders, especially non-governmental organizations and civil society, so that resolution 1325 (2000) can spur action and remain at the heart of the peace and development process.

In this context, and in order to commemorate the anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000), the First Lady of the Republic of Guinea is organizing today in Conakry, under the auspices of her foundation, the Maman Henriette Conté Foundation, various cultural activities and a conference to promote in Guinea and in neighbouring countries the spirit of that historic resolution on women, peace and security.

With the support of the Government, a United Nations country team and, above all, Ms. Rachel Mayanja, Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the First Lady of Guinea wishes also to pay tribute to the active contribution of the Guinean office for the Network of African Women Ministers and Parliamentarians (NAWMP) supported by the Manu River Union Women's Association in conducting negotiations which foster the restoration of peace, stability and reconciliation in the subregion.

Secondly, at the regional and international level, we must take effective steps to compel all those concerned to conclude partnerships and alliances with the authorities, groups and women's networks at the local and national levels, with a view to the coordinated and complete implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

We must also work to enhance various types of women's activities in countries which are emerging from conflict or which have long been affected by conflict, by providing sufficient professional technical capacities, making available the appropriate resources and providing access to various sources of power and responsibility.

A review of resolution 1325 (2000) from the standpoint of peacebuilding represents a source of hope for the women of Guinea, of Africa and of the entire world. This hope must not be in vain. It could be fulfilled if the entire international community shouldered its responsibilities, demonstrated the necessary political will and acted in conformity with its commitments.

Finally, my country would like to take this opportunity, as a Friend of resolution 1325 (2000), to reaffirm its full commitment to the complete success of the current work of the Security Council.

The President: I call now on the representative of Lesotho.

Mr. Maema (Lesotho): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the States members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), namely, Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and my own country, Lesotho.

We thank the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the Assistant Secretary-General, Peacebuilding Support Office, for their informative presentations.

We welcome the report of the Secretary-General (S/2006/770) and consider it to be a comprehensive assessment of the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), on women, peace and security. We therefore commend the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women for the pivotal role it played in the preparation of the report. Also commendable is the positive response of other United Nations entities that have contributed towards the successful implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and of the System-wide Action Plan.

The adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1325 (2000) was a big step towards the

protection of women in conflict situations and a recognition of the substantial difference that women make when actively involved in conflict resolution and peace processes. We therefore highly commend the commitment shown by the Secretary-General in commissioning a study to review the implementation of the System-wide Action Plan. We are confident that the findings of the study will be instrumental in accelerating the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

We are encouraged by the fact that the study showed that considerable progress has been made by all stakeholders in implementing resolution 1325 (2000). That demonstrates the importance we all attach to the resolution, which, if implemented effectively, can save millions of lives. The resolution recognizes the impact of armed conflict on women and stresses the importance of women's equal participation in resolving conflicts and thus in promoting peace and security. We are therefore convinced that, with more women taking an active role in peacebuilding processes, much can be achieved.

The pivotal role that women play when trained in the area of early warning in order to prevent conflict is well understood by our Governments. Indeed, it has been noted that women are among the first to sound the alarm about looming conflicts in the areas where they live. Unfortunately, their voices continue to be ignored. In that regard, we concur with the observation in the Secretary-General's report that concrete measures are necessary to strengthen capacity-building in the field so as to ensure women's full participation at all stages of a peace process, especially in the negotiation and implementation of peace agreements.

We therefore appreciate the measures taken by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to hold regular meetings with women representatives in countries affected by conflict. However, it is a hard fact that in most countries there are very few female representatives, as women are generally not involved in politics and do not hold decision-making positions. It is in that regard that SADC stresses the importance of giving priority to the empowerment of women, thereby enabling them to participate in politics and decision-making.

SADC condemns acts of sexual violence perpetrated against women and girls, especially by members of United Nations peacekeeping missions and personnel of other international organizations tasked with protecting women in situations of armed conflict. It is disheartening when those charged with the mandate of protecting civilians during armed conflict prey on the most vulnerable members of affected communities. We therefore welcome the Secretary-General's strategy to address acts of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in United Nations peacekeeping missions. In addition, we welcome in particular how that effort is reflected in the terms of appointments for United Nations police, military observers and so on. Needless to say, the significant progress noted in this area must be accompanied by further concrete efforts.

Accelerated implementation of the recommendations is essential to the realization of the goals of resolution 1325 (2000). We need to address the gaps and challenges uncovered in the report of the Secretary-General in order to enable the United Nations system to effectively implement the System-wide Action Plan. Member States also have the critical role of supporting the United Nations system and monitoring progress to make sure that implementation is successful. We in SADC pledge to do our part.

In conclusion, we support the Secretary-General's recommendation to the Security Council that the System-wide Action Plan be renewed beyond the year 2007.

The President: The next speaker on my list is the representative of Egypt, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. Abdelaziz (Egypt): I would like to start by commending Japan for its decision to convene this meeting and by expressing our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report (S/2006/770) on women, peace and security. I would like also to thank all the speakers who made introductory statements today.

As we review today the first progress report on the implementation of the System-wide Action Plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), we have some mixed feelings of achievement coupled with confusion. The questionnaire that was addressed to 39 United Nations entities on the status of the implementation of the resolution and the Action Plan resulted in responses from only 29 entities. The report does not indicate whether the rest of the entities refused to cooperate with the study or just neglected

the subject. We would appreciate further clarification in that regard.

In the meantime, it was surprising to my delegation to read, in paragraph 38 of the report, of the clear acknowledgment that the System-wide Action Plan is established not as a United Nations system-wide strategy, but rather as a compilation of planned or ongoing activities by United Nations entities in those areas for action where expertise and resources are available. That serious statement clearly indicates that States Members of the United Nations are not leading the process of the advancement of women, which should be done by defining specific mandates that the Secretariat must implement to the best of its ability, in particular in areas related to the issue of women and peace and security.

The two focus group discussions that took place in the process leading to the preparation of the report limited their scope only to members of the Security Council and the so-called Friends of resolution 1325 (2000), on the one hand, and to the Non-governmental Organization Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, on the other. It did not include the wider membership of the General Assembly. This subject is interlinked with the original mandate of the General Assembly and the treaty bodies established to monitor these important issues — foremost among which is the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Such principal organs and treaty bodies should have a say in formulating such a strategy. Furthermore, classifying Member States as friends or non-friends of the resolution establishes an artificial divide that leads to misunderstanding and that should be deleted from the report. We all support enhancing the role of women in the areas of peace and security. There are no friends or enemies of resolution 1325 (2000).

The report addressed a wide range of activities that are being dealt with by the United Nations, revealing many gaps and challenges. But the underlying theme, which we fully support, is that efforts exerted to enhance the links between women and peace and security should be carried out at the national level, and that the role of the United Nations is to support those efforts, thereby codifying national ownership of such efforts according to the capacity of the country concerned and taking into consideration the specificities of each country in conflict or in the peacebuilding process.

In addressing the institutional gaps and challenges, we must admit that the spread of uncoordinated activities through 39 entities in the United Nations system and beyond, coupled with a weak system of accountability and a lack of resources from the regular budget — with almost full dependence on voluntary contributions that are earmarked to certain countries — all constitute a recipe for failure. We must admit that the main question under consideration should be whether the advancement of women and efforts aimed at gender equality should be dealt with in all entities of the Secretariat, with a closely coordinated mechanism that ensures achieving results, or whether that should be centralized in certain sections of the Secretariat. The report of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment will be crucial in focusing our discussions on whether we centralize or decentralize how women's issues are addressed within the Organization.

Our efforts at this stage should concentrate on widening the scope of consultations to include all States Members of the United Nations as well as the new organs, in particular the Peacebuilding Commission. That will provide a solid foundation for redrafting the System-wide Action Plan to reflect what States Members of the Organization would like to see done, and to allocate the necessary funds for its implementation from the regular budget. We believe that the Action Plan should become a complete United Nations strategy, with clearly defined objectives, whose implementation the Secretariat must ensure.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of El Salvador.

Mrs. Gallardo Hernández (El Salvador) (*spoke in Spanish*): El Salvador welcomes your initiative, Mr. President, to hold this open debate of the Security Council to commemorate the sixth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security. There is no doubt that the resolution is the basis for a cross-cutting examination of gender issues in the area of post-conflict peacebuilding. In that way it opens up the possibility for the active participation of women in peace negotiations and national reconciliation processes.

The Peacebuilding Commission provides a new opportunity to implement the cross-cutting approach to

gender issues proposed in resolution 1325 (2000). Establishing lasting peace requires that we promote the participation of women in decision-making at all levels, and especially in political and economic areas.

On the basis of our experience, we can say that the participation of women in peace negotiations is complementary to peacebuilding efforts. It promotes reconciliation and the incorporation of women fighters and insurgents of the opposition movements into legitimate institutions. That is why we believe it important that a specific official be appointed within the Peacebuilding Support Office, who would be responsible for following up on the incorporation of the gender perspective in peacebuilding strategies both in the Organizational Committee and in country-specific meetings. It is also critical to ensure the gender perspective in the Commission's substantive work on peacebuilding, reconciliation and development.

We must also recognize that the experiences of women and girls and their participation in the context of armed conflict, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, reconstruction and reconciliation are different. Today, sadly, we know that women and girls have become strategic targets in armed conflicts, a situation that is completely unacceptable to the international community.

El Salvador recognizes the complexity of the consequences of armed conflict. On the basis of our own experience, we see, inter alia, how international migration is in part influenced by that situation. We therefore deem it appropriate to focus on the gender repercussions of international migration following a conflict, particularly when it is a direct consequence of war. We should also understand how this situation disproportionately affects women and girls.

It is a widely acknowledged fact that there is an increasing feminization of international migration. It is therefore essential to promote a cross-cutting gender analysis of that phenomenon so as to implement measures to protect women's human rights.

It is also important to note the linkage between gender issues and peacekeeping operations within the United Nations. There have been numerous debates about the need to promote a gender perspective in peacekeeping operations in order to mitigate the negative impact of illicit activities committed by individuals participating in peacekeeping operations and related to various types of violence against women. The time has come for action.

Similarly, we should encourage the initiatives of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to strengthen institutional mechanisms to promote the growing incorporation of gender mainstreaming into various peacebuilding operations. We therefore favour the establishment of gender units within peacekeeping operations themselves.

El Salvador welcomes the United Nations efforts to implement resolution 1325 (2000), in particular the guide for national action planning on women, peace and security drawn up by the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. We believe that the drafting of national action plans to implement the commitments undertaken under resolution 1325 (2000) is undoubtedly an innovative and necessary step if progress is to be made in gender mainstreaming in peace and security.

In conclusion, I reaffirm El Salvador's support for resolution 1325 (2000) and its commitment to achieving progress in gender mainstreaming in all domains as an effective strategy for reducing poverty, empowering women and achieving the sustainable development that we all desire.

The President: I call on the representative of the Sudan.

Mr. Mohamad (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): As I am addressing the Security Council for the first time, I extend special congratulations to you, Sir, on your wise and skilful presidency of the Council this month. We have interacted with your distinguished presidency throughout the month, including on all relevant matters, and you have been a source of inspiration and wisdom to us.

In that context, I must also offer you our full appreciation for the importance that the Security Council has continued to attach to the promotion of peace in the Sudan.

In discussing the issue of women, peace and security, we note the importance of the Security Council's role, as manifested in its resolution 1325 (2000), which sets out a comprehensive plan of action on the status and role of women in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations, the obligations set out in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the provisions of the Outcome

Document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, on women, development and peace for the twenty-first century, in particular those concerning women in armed conflict, which

> "Ensure and support the full participation of women at all levels of decision-making and implementation in development activities and peace processes, including conflict prevention and resolution" (*GA resolution S-23/3, Annex, para. 86 (b)*).

God abhors all conflict and war. Human rights and international humanitarian law are violated whenever wars erupt. War is war. War is a source of deep regret that the great majority of those affected by armed conflict are civilians and that women and children are the most vulnerable and directly hurt segment of society, often becoming refugees and internally displaced persons.

We note in that respect the Security Council's request to the Secretary-General to submit a system-wide action plan to implement resolution 1325 (2000), including major areas of action in the field of women, peace and security and providing a framework for relevant inter-agency activities, and to address this issue through strategies to promote the gender perspective, confidence-building, and the development of local and regional women's organizations to complement the role of the United Nations at the regional and local levels.

The promotion of the gender perspective in areas of conflict requires reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes to incorporate the promotion of women's practical participation in those areas by providing technical assistance, particularly training programmes for women in the fields of health and education. In that respect, we rely on the relevant United Nations agencies and bodies — including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and UNICEF — to coordinate inter-agency programmes for women and girls.

We note in that respect the experience of the UNDP project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which encountered certain difficulties in raising awareness in that country on gender issues in the implementation of its disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme.

At the national level, women's issues have been among the Sudan's major priorities. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the Darfur Peace Agreement both included provisions to guarantee the role and active participation in peacebuilding and the implementation of its articles. Our traditions and values accord women a particularly distinguished role that takes into account their nature, preserves respect for them and safeguards their rights, over and above the requirements of these agreements and instruments. Since independence, our national legislation has given women a pioneering role and promoted their active participation in all spheres.

Allow me to underline the fact that the Sudanese parliament was the first legislative institution in the region, during the period of national independence 50 years ago, in which women participated in free elections, representing different segments of the political spectrum. That principle has not changed since independence; women are allocated a specific quota in the parliament — more than in most countries in the region.

Because of that early start, representation and participation by women has continued to grow over time. Women are represented at all levels of decision-making, from the presidency of the Republic, to the Cabinet, the parliament and, finally, various institutions and ministries, in addition to their strong presence in civil society organizations. Therefore the participation of Sudanese women, side by side with men, in the process of bringing about peace is already a reality in terms of the issues with which we are dealing today.

We are fully confident that today's Council debate on the question of women, peace and security will have a positive effect on the status and the role of women in today's world. We would like to propose that the remarks made by various delegations today lead to a comprehensive action plan concerning women, peace and security.

The President: I thank the representative of the Sudan for the kind words he addressed to the presidency.

Next I call on the representative of Israel.

Mrs. Shahar (Israel): Mr. President, at the outset, I would like to thank you for having convened this open debate on women, peace and security as we mark the sixth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000).

This year also deserves special recognition as the thirtieth anniversary of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). Since 1976, UNIFEM has provided financial and technical assistance to thousands of innovative initiatives around the world aimed at fostering women's empowerment and gender equality. UNIFEM has undoubtedly touched the lives of women and young girls in more than 100 countries. Here at the United Nations especially, UNIFEM has helped to make the voices of women heard on critical issues and advocated for the implementation of commitments made to women around the globe by the nations of the world.

Israel believes that women must play an equal role in all aspects of State affairs and in civil society. We have no doubt that the advancement and progress of women will translate into nothing less than advancement and progress for all. As such, Israel remains committed to the principles and goals of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as to the principles outlined in the Outcome Document adopted by our leaders a year ago.

We welcome the Secretary-General's United Nations System-wide Action Plan, which will help ensure that closer attention is paid to gender perspectives in conflict-prevention and peacekeeping activities. Similarly, we encourage the Secretary-General to continue to identify women candidates for senior-level positions within the United Nations system, with particular attention to special representatives. We trust that this will remain a priority for the incoming Secretary-General as well.

The mainstreaming of gender into all policies and programmes at the international and national level is a crucial factor in the prevention of sex discrimination, exploitation and abuse. If women are ever truly to see their needs recognized and interests represented in peace accords, they must have access to peace negotiations from the earliest possible stages. To that extent, Israel has been working, through Government and non-governmental channels, to increase awareness and amplify the voice of women in peace negotiations and conflict resolution processes.

In Israel, programmes such as Isha l'Isha — meaning "woman to woman" — continue to implement resolution 1325 (2000) through a variety of means, including, but not limited to, distributing Hebrew translations of the resolution; distributing and disseminating information on the resolution to national, regional and non-governmental bodies; campaigning to raise awareness through public relations work and media coverage; and monitoring and documenting the impact of conflict on women and girls. Isha l'Isha has also contributed documents and information to the Israeli parliament's research centre, which is working to create legal recommendations for the full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in Israel.

Similarly, the Israeli Women's Equal Rights law was amended a year and a half ago, in the spirit of resolution 1325 (2000), mandating the Israeli Government to include women in any group appointed to participate in peacebuilding negotiations and conflict resolution.

It may be worthwhile to note that some of the key mediators currently involved in promoting the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are women, among them our very own Foreign Minister, Tzipi Livni; United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice; Greek Foreign Minister Theodora Bakoyannis, who chaired a special meeting of the Security Council just last month; German Chancellor Angela Merkel; the British Foreign Secretary and many other prominent women — women who are today the effective stewards of a political peace initiative in our region. These extraordinarily competent women, drawing on their own skills and, hopefully, on the work of the resilient and vigorous Israeli-Palestinian women's peace movement, bring a renewed energy and dynamism to the negotiations.

However, the election of Hamas, a terrorist organization, to the leadership of the Palestinian Authority has stalled the negotiation process. Additionally, it has made the identification of women leaders and representatives to peace negotiations from the Palestinian side all the more difficult.

On the other hand, there is a visible movement of Israeli women, from across civil society and the political spectrum, advocating for peace. The recognition and effectiveness of such advocacy organizations and non-governmental organizations is a

testament to the vibrancy of Israeli democracy and pluralism. Israel takes great pride in their leadership.

More specifically, in the spirit of resolution 1325 (2000), Israeli and Palestinian women, under the auspices of the International Women's Commission for a Just and Sustainable Israeli-Palestinian Peace, met again this year here in New York. Their recent visit, which took place last month during the opening of the session, at the time of the general debate, facilitated meetings with key players in regional and peace negotiations, in an effort to restart dialogue and open more channels.

Israel is determined that women should play an increasingly active role in peace negotiations, and we are committed to advancing the role of women in all aspects of society. We are hopeful that an enhanced role for women in peace negotiations will build lasting bridges of understanding with our neighbours and allow for the reopening of a dialogue to rejuvenate the prospects for peace.

As Golda Meir, Israel's only woman Prime Minister to date, once said: "The only alternative to war is peace. The only road to peace is negotiation."

The President: I now call on the representative of Croatia.

Mrs. Mladineo (Croatia): At the outset, allow me, on behalf of my delegation, to commend the Japanese presidency for having organized this debate to mark the sixth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security.

Croatia aligns itself with the statement made by Finland on behalf of the European Union. I would like to elaborate on a few of my Government's views on the matter.

Why is resolution 1325 (2000) so important for us? Because it calls for the protection of women and girls in conflicts worldwide and gives women an active role in peacebuilding as well as in post-conflict situations. Croatia believes that it is of the utmost importance for the Security Council to discuss this issue, but that it is even more important that resolution 1325 (2000) be implemented.

The international community must not remain passive in the face of gross violations of human rights. In the twenty-first century, it is unacceptable that women in conflict worldwide are still being used, raped and tortured, even as an instrument of war. It is even more humiliating for the international community that women too often become victims in post-conflict situations. Perpetrators must be punished without exception. If we send protection, we must guarantee protection. All of this is exactly why it is crucial to give women a more prominent role in peacebuilding processes.

Croatia firmly supports the statement of the European Union that gender should be incorporated into every aspect of the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Support Office, and that gender equality is a prerequisite for peace and security.

Croatia believes that it is an international, yet also a national responsibility to stop the marginalization of women in peacekeeping and peacebuilding. We are putting a lot of effort into increasing the involvement of women in peacekeeping operations, especially among military and police observers. Through national mechanisms, like the recently adopted national policy for the promotion of gender equality for the period of 2006 to 2010, special measures for achieving the integration of a gender perspective in national security policy, as well as the promotion of application of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), are being incorporated. Although figures show some progress in this issue, there is still a great challenge in front of us and higher goals still to be achieved.

Today, we are calling for the greater representation of women in the process of negotiating peace, post-war reconstruction and reconciliation. We must continue to encourage the main bodies of the United Nations, particularly the funds and programmes, to strengthen the participation of women in their work and to streamline gender issues.

In conclusion, only by enhancing the role of women in peacebuilding processes, but especially in decision-making processes, can we achieve the fulfilment of the principles contained in resolution 1325 (2000) for the benefit of all.

The President: I now call on the representative of Myanmar.

Mr. Swe (Myanmar): My delegation greatly appreciates the initiative taken by you, Mr. President, in holding an open debate on women, peace and

security on the sixth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000). As a result of that landmark resolution the international community looks upon women, not merely as victims in conflict situations, but also as valuable contributors in the resolution of conflicts and as active participants in rebuilding their communities. We also wish to thank the four senior United Nations officials for their briefings and for the good job they do for the cause of women and girls.

The 2005 World Summit Outcome, by clearly underscoring the fact that "progress for women is progress for all," gives special importance to the promotion of gender equality and the elimination of gender discrimination. The Summit Outcome also identifies gender mainstreaming as a tool for achieving gender equality. My Government fully shares this view. We also share the view that gender equality plays an essential part in advancing development, peace and security. In our national efforts to promote gender equality, tradition and culture play an important part.

Myanmar traditional law guarantees the free and equal rights of women, including the right to own and inherit property. It also ensures secure tenure of property and housing for women.

The Government of the Union of Myanmar, hand in hand with such organizations as the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association and the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, promotes policies to ensure that the needs and priorities of women, girls, men and boys are addressed systematically.

The results of all these efforts are most evident in the area of education. The enrolment of girls now equals that of boys in the primary and secondary levels. At the tertiary level, overall enrolment of women surpasses that of men.

Myanmar's traditions, culture and values, which abhor and prohibit the sexual exploitation of women, strongly contribute to the Government's endeavours to protect women and girls from human rights abuses, including sexual and gender-based violence. We fully support the zero tolerance policy with regard to violence against women and girls.

My delegation shares the view that development, peace, security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. In situations of conflicts, women and girls are among those who suffer most. My country suffered from almost five decades of insurgency. Through the determined efforts of the Government we have been able to achieve national reconciliation, with 17 major armed insurgent groups returning to the legal fold. The representatives of the former insurgent groups have now joined other delegates in the National Convention that is laying down the basic principles of our new constitution. Women of Myanmar are also taking an active part in the National Convention process.

Terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. It knows no national boundaries. Women in Myanmar, with the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation at its forefront, have taken on nationwide campaigns to condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

In implementing resolution 1325 (2000), we also need to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender. My delegation is pleased to note, from the report of the Secretary-General, that United Nations entities are focused on developing policies and operational tools to facilitate gender mainstreaming and that regular gender training is provided for all categories and levels of peacekeeping personnel. We are also happy to learn that progress has been made in implementing United Nations action plan for implementing resolution 1325 (2000), including in such areas as conflict prevention, early warning, peace making and peace building. The report also shows that much more needs to be done.

My delegation is encouraged by the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission and hopes that the Commission, by complementing national efforts, will play an important part in promoting the role of women in the consolidation of peace.

The President: I now call on the representative of Kenya.

Mr. Muburi-Muita (Kenya): I join other delegations in congratulating you, Mr. President, on the excellent stewardship of the work of the Security Council and especially in organizing today's debate on women, peace and security. We have been enriched by the incisive contributions presented thus far.

A year ago, the President of Kenya, His Excellency Mr. Mwai Kibaki, stated in the General Assembly:

> "Kenya affirms the centrality of gender equality and recognizes the critical role that women must play in development. We also recognize that achievement of the Millennium Development Goals depends on the empowerment of women. As part of our effort to fully attain this objective, my Government has adopted a national policy on gender development. The aim is to integrate women in decision-making through legal, regulatory and institutional reforms." (A/60/PV.10, p. 10)

In this room a month or so later, my predecessor spoke passionately during a session similar to this one, emphasizing the centrality of mainstreaming gender and, in particular, of including women at all levels while addressing security issues, especially during post-conflict peacebuilding measures.

Last Friday, in keeping with his solemn pledge to include women at all levels in decision-making, President Kibaki decreed that 30 per cent of all public service jobs would be reserved for women henceforth. In his words, he said,

> "The women of this country provide a critical mass for our economic development ... However, there is a serious imbalance between the number of women employed in the public service and that in the private sector and in the leadership of the country in general ... I therefore call upon the public service to apply affirmative action in new employment by ensuring that a minimum of 30 per cent of new recruitment and appointments in public service establishments are women."

Kenya expresses its deep gratitude to the Secretary-General for the comprehensive report on the status of implementation of the resolution, in particular through the System-wide Action Plan developed in 2005.

The report showcases the key sectors where tangible progress has been achieved and identifies the gaps and challenges in implementation. While expressing gratitude for the four excellent presentations from the Secretariat this morning, I must, however, hasten to add that, despite the progress made, numerous challenges still stand in the way of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). These challenges include: a lack of capacity to understand and implement gender mainstreaming programmes; an unfortunate lack of leadership and commitment in implementing the resolution; a lack of adequate accountability mechanisms; a lack of resources; and limited inter-agency coordination. In view of these challenges, we welcome the comprehensive recommendations made in the report of the Secretary-General aimed at overcoming these challenges and strengthening implementation of the resolution.

Kenya appreciates the fact that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations has made great strides in promoting gender balance among peacekeeping personnel. The incorporation of full-time gender advisers in peacekeeping missions has been very useful in this regard. Although gender balance is far from having been attained, we have taken steps in the right direction. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations should redouble its efforts towards achieving this goal. It must develop and disseminate to States, especially troop-contributing States, effective guidelines to ensure sustained efforts in gender mainstreaming at all levels of peacekeeping operations.

In response to resolution 1325 (2000), Kenya has made deliberate efforts to increase the participation of women in peacekeeping missions. Currently, we have women in uniform deployed in six out of the eight peacekeeping missions in which we are engaged. We are determined to raise this number.

Resolution 1325 (2000) emphasized the need to incorporate gender perspectives in post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding. We are happy to note that there has been increased attention to the role of women in the post-conflict rebuilding process, especially in the judicial, legislative and electoral sectors, as well as in the restoration of the rule of law and transitional justice. Women still need considerable support and capacity-building to be effective in new democratic and legal structures that were traditionally dominated by men.

We continue to encourage the United Nations Development Fund for Women in its role in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), especially in promoting the role of women in peacebuilding and post-conflict transition, in particular on the African continent. However, limitations in funding and resources threaten to undermine this effort. We urge member States to explore strategies that will ensure the alignment of resources with priorities and the provision

of adequate and regular funding for activities related to the implementation of this resolution.

Finally, Kenya strongly endorses the recommendation for the need to re-conceptualize the Action Plan in order to strengthen its accountability, monitoring and reporting system and to ensure enhanced coordination across the United Nations system. Establishing a Security Council working group, or designating a focal point on women, peace and security issues, as recommended by the Secretary-General, would ensure systematic integration and implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

The President: I now call on the representative of Liechtenstein.

Mr. Ritter (Liechtenstein): I wish to commend the Japanese presidency of the Security Council for holding this open debate on the role of women in the consolidation of peace. This initiative is not only timely because of the sixth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), but it is also particularly important, because the Peacebuilding Commission has recently taken up its work and held its first country-specific meetings. The outcome documents of both meetings include references to resolution 1325 (2000).

Whether such references will ensure the successful involvement of women in the peace processes in those and other countries will depend, to a very large extent, on the measures taken and promoted at the local level. In fact, we have witnessed, in many processes of peace consolidation and institution-building, a common pattern of relegating family law and community dispute resolution to the traditional and customary sectors, putting them beyond the reach of the State. Quite often, those sectors show, however, strong resistance to the idea of equal participation of women in all decision-making processes, including peace processes. As long as such types of tacit arrangements between national and traditional authorities persist, it will be extremely difficult to translate national strategies for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) into concrete and sustainable action.

For this reason, we consider it crucial that the Peacebuilding Commission establish the necessary mechanisms to facilitate, together with the countries concerned, the participation of representatives of local women's groups and networks who are able to make the voices and priorities of women from local and rural communities heard in country- specific configurations. Such mechanisms will also have to encompass financial and other support to those groups and networks in order to enable their effective engagement with the Peacebuilding Commission.

The Security Council could assume leadership in such efforts by setting the right example and increasingly listening to the voices of local women's groups as well. This would be a clear sign of its commitment to the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). While we commend the Security Council for its measures to further mainstream resolution 1325 (2000), we are concerned that, six years after the adoption of this historic resolution, the Council still has no systematic way of ensuring the integration of a gender perspective in its work. We therefore wish to join other delegations in calling on the Council to establish a focal point or an expert level working group on women, peace and security to ensure the systematic implementation and integration of resolution 1325 (2000) within its work, including in all resolutions that establish or extend peacekeeping missions and in terms of references for Security Council mission trips and mission reports.

Despite the past efforts of many stakeholders, there seems to be a continued and widespread lack of awareness of the fact that women need to be enabled to play an active role in connection with armed conflict and peacebuilding. The United Nations and its operations on the ground are perfectly placed to utilize this largely untapped resource and, in this respect, we wish to commend the Secretary-General for his report on the implementation of the System-wide Action Plan (S/2006/770). In particular, we welcome the identification of strengthened inter-agency cooperation in the field as a priority area for further action to implement the Plan. In the same connection, we also support the emphasis placed on closer collaboration with mechanisms for gender equality and advancement of women within countries, including women members of parliament and civil society. In fact, most United Nations entities that have contributed to the evaluation have signalled effective partnership with civil society as a challenge, especially in the field, and pointed out that the networking with women's organizations was inadequate.

For many years now, Liechtenstein has been advocating the appointment of women as special

representatives and envoys of the Secretary-General, because we are convinced that such appointments can play a catalytic role for the stronger involvement of women in peace processes, especially when those processes reach a more formal stage. They might also have a positive impact on the level of reporting on gender-related issues to the Security Council, which is still unsatisfactory. Therefore, we consider such appointments as crucial for better implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

The progress made in the representation of women in these leadership positions since the last time the Council met on this topic has, however, been disappointing. We are, of course, aware of the need to provide the Secretary-General with the names of potential, well-qualified candidates for such posts, and we invite all interested States and non-governmental organizations to join forces in gathering the necessary information. There is no doubt in our minds that there are enough suitable candidates for such posts. We just have to look for them.

The President: The last speaker on my list is the representative of Comoros, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. Aboud (Comoros) (*spoke in French*): On behalf of my Government, first of all, I would like to thank the delegation of Japan for convening this public debate. I would also like to thank this morning's speakers for their briefings and for having demonstrated the importance and constant commitment of the international community to the advancement of women, to peace and to security throughout the world.

As the Security Council knows, since its independence in 1975, my country has not experienced a stable political situation. This has prevented the key elements of Comorian society from becoming dynamically involved in our country's progress and development.

In such a context, Comorian women have not been able to exercise any real political influence in decision-making involving the future of the Comoros. However, with the election of His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Abdallah Sambi, President of the Union of the Comoros, my country has now begun a new political era.

The success achieved in the national reconciliation process began by Comorians with the unwavering support of the entire international community and all the development partners of Comoros offers Comorian women a real opportunity participate in decisions involving the future of Comoros, since my country has resolutely commi itself to the path of democracy, the rule of law good governance.

In 2000, when the Security Council ado resolution 1325 (2000), my country was caught u crisis. That prevented it from becoming truly inve in the establishment of mechanisms to ensure advancement of the status of women throughout world. My country, the Union of the Comoros, signatory of the Convention on the Elimination of Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Gender equality is guaranteed by the constitu of the Comoros. The Union of the Comoros subscribed to the Declaration of the Fourth W Conference on Women, held in Beijing, and the Af Platform for Action and, at the regional level, ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Hu and Peoples's Rights. In so doing, it recognized guaranteed a broad range of political, civil, econo social and cultural rights for women. In spite of favourable political and legal framework, it is evi that Comorian women continue to play a marginal in the decision-making process and are hardly vi within decision-making bodies in both the public private sectors.

In December 2003, under the auspices of highest political and religious authorities of country and with technical support from a Un Nations team, my country organized a workshop on participation of women in decision-making, w enabled us to explore appropriate strategies establishing a durable foundation for the effec participation of Comorian women at all levels political decision-making.

In that regard, a project to support participation of women in decision-making enjoys financial support of the Japanese Women Development Fund and the United Nat Development Programme (UNDP), as well as techn support from UNIFEM. That project is among Comorian Government's priorities with a view creating a favourable environment for the participation of all Comorians in our fight aga poverty, through enhancing awareness of the wom rights, providing training to facilitate the acces

women to high-ranking positions and strengthening existing structures and mechanisms for promoting gender equality.

My country takes this opportunity to appeal to all our partners and friends here to be so kind as to give their support to that and similar projects, as they make it possible to promote the status of Comorian women. That would enable my country to contribute to the success of resolution 1325 (2000), which opens up wider horizons for the promotion of the status of women throughout the world, in order to make our world a secure world with equality for all, a world that is truly committed to the recognition, defence and promotion of human rights.

I cannot conclude without thanking the development partners of the Comoros, who are helping to strengthen its capacity for defending and promoting women's rights, in particular the Government of Japan, UNIFEM and UNDP, for their financial support to this important project, which will help to fulfil my country's commitments to the international community and its citizens to defend and promote the rights of all Comorian men and women. Long live international cooperation.

The President: After consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council.

"The Security Council reaffirms its commitment to the full and effective implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and recalls the statements by its President of 31 October 2001 (S/PRST/2001/31), 31 October 2002 (S/PRST/2002/32), 28 October 2004 (S/PRST/2004/40) and 27 October 2005 (S/PRST/2005/52) as reiterating that commitment.

"The Security Council recalls the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcomes of the Conference and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and the Declaration of the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women (E/CN.6/2005/11).

"The Security Council recognizes the vital roles of, and contributions by, women in consolidating peace. The Council welcomes the progress made in increasing participation of women in decision-making in several countries emerging from conflict and requests the Secretary-General to collect and compile good practices and lessons learned and identify remaining gaps and challenges in order to further promote the efficient and effective implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

"The Security Council recognizes that the protection and empowerment of women and support for their networks and initiatives are essential in the consolidation of peace to promote the equal and full participation of women and to improve their human security, and encourages Member States, donors and civil society to provide support in this respect.

"The Security Council recognizes the importance of integrating gender perspectives into institutional reform in post-conflict countries at both the national and local levels. The Security Council encourages Member States in post-conflict situations to ensure that gender perspectives are mainstreamed in their institutional reform, ensuring that the reforms, in particular of the security sector, justice institutions and restoration of the rule of law, provide for the protection of women's rights and safety. The Council also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that United Nations assistance in this context appropriately addresses the needs and priorities of women in the post-conflict process.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to ensure that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes take specific account of the situation of women ex-combatants and women associated with combatants, as well as their children, and provide for their full access to these programmes.

"The Security Council welcomes the role that the Peacebuilding Commission can play in mainstreaming gender perspectives into the peace consolidation process. In this context, the Council welcomes in particular the Chairman's summaries

at its country-specific meetings on Sierra Leone and Burundi on 12 and 13 October 2006.

"The Security Council remains deeply concerned by the pervasiveness of all forms of violence against women in armed conflicts, including killing, maiming, grave sexual violence, abductions and trafficking in persons. The Council reiterates its utmost condemnation of such practices and calls upon all parties to armed conflict to ensure full and effective protection of women, and emphasizes the necessity to end impunity of those responsible for gender-based violence.

"The Security Council reiterates its condemnation, in the strongest terms, of all acts of sexual misconduct by all categories of personnel in United Nations peacekeeping missions. The Council urges the Secretary-General and troop-contributing countries to ensure the full implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/60/19). In this connection, the Council expresses its support for further efforts by the United Nations to fully implement codes of conduct and disciplinary procedures to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, and enhance monitoring and enforcement mechanisms based on a zero-tolerance policy.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to include in his reporting to the Security Council progress in gender mainstreaming throughout United Nations peacekeeping missions as well as on other aspects relating specifically to women and girls. The Council emphasizes the need for the inclusion of gender components in peacekeeping operations. The Council further encourages Member States and the Secretary-General to increase the participation of women in all areas and all levels of peacekeeping operations, civilian, police and military, where possible.

"The Security Council reiterates its call to Member States to continue to implement resolution 1325 (2000), including through the development and implementation of national action plans or other national-level strategies.

"The Security Council recognizes the important contribution of civil society to the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and encourages Member States to continue to collaborate with civil society, in particular with local women's networks and organizations, in order to strengthen implementation.

"The Security Council looks forward to the report of the High-Level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment and hopes this will play a role in ensuring a coordinated United Nations approach to women and peace and security.

"The Security Council welcomes the first follow-up report of the Secretary-General (S/2006/770) on the United Nations System-wide Action Plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) across the United Nations system. The Council requests the Secretary-General to continue to update, monitor and review the implementation and integration of the Action Plan and report to the Security Council as stipulated in the statement by the President of the Security Council of 27 October 2005 (S/PRST/2005/52)."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2006/42.

I thank all Council members, all the delegations that spoke under rule 37, the four speakers from the Secretariat and agencies, and the two speakers from civil society for their important contributions to the debate this morning and this afternoon.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5557

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 October 2006

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 5557th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 27 October 2006, at 10 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"At its 5557th meeting, held in private on 27 October 2006, the Security Council considered the item entitled 'Briefing by the President of the International Court of Justice'.

"In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, the President extended an invitation under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure to Judge Rosalyn Higgins, President of the International Court of Justice.

"The members of the Council and Judge Higgins had an exchange of views."

06-59034 (E) 271006

United Nations S/PV.5558

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 October 2006

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 5558th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 30 October 2006, at 10 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"At its 5558th meeting, held in private on 30 October 2006, the Security Council considered the item entitled 'The situation in the Central African Republic'.

"The President, with the consent of the Council, invited the representative of the Central African Republic to participate in the consideration of the item without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

"In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, the President, with the consent of the Council, extended an invitation under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure to General Lamine Cissé, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic.

"Members of the Council, General Cissé and His Excellency Mr. Elie Doté, Prime Minister of the Central African Republic, had an exchange of views."

06-59179 (E) 301006

United Nations S/PV.5559

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5559th meeting

Monday, 30 October 2006, 6.10 p.m.

New York

President	Mr. Oshima	(Japan)
Members	Argentina	Mr. Garcia Moritán
	China	Mr. Liu Zhenmin
	Congo	Mr. Gayama
	Denmark	Mr. Christensen
	France	Mr. De Riviere
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Greece	Mrs. Papadopoulou
	Peru	Mr. Voto-Bernales
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Henzab
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Emyr Jones Parry
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mrs. Taj
	United States of America	Ms. Wolcott Sanders

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

Fourth semi-annual report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004) (S/2006/832)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

06-59274 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 6.10 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

Fourth semi-annual report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004) (S/2006/832)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Lebanon, in which she requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Ziade (Lebanon) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2006/832, containing the fourth semi-annual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004).

After consultations among the members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council recalls all its previous resolutions on Lebanon, in particular resolutions 1559 (2004), 425 (1978) and 426 (1978), resolutions 520 (1982) and 1680 (2006), and resolution 1701 (2006), as well as the statements of its President on the situation in Lebanon, in particular the statements of 18 June 2000, of 19 October 2004, of 4 May 2005 and of 23 January 2006.

"The Security Council reaffirms its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty, unity and political independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized borders.

"The Security Council welcomes the fourth semi-annual report to the Security Council, of 19 October 2006, on the implementation of resolution 1559 (2004).

"The Security Council notes that important progress has been made towards the implementation of resolution 1559 (2004), in particular through the deployment of the Lebanese Armed Forces in the south of the country for the first time in three decades, but it also notes with regret that some provisions of resolution 1559 (2004) have yet to be implemented, namely the disbanding and disarming of Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias, the strict respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Lebanon, and free and fair presidential elections conducted according to the Lebanese constitutional rules, without any foreign interference and influence.

"The Security Council commends the Lebanese Government for extending its authority throughout its territory, particularly in the south, and encourages it to continue its efforts in this regard.

"The Security Council reiterates its call for the full implementation of resolution 1559 (2004) and urges all concerned States and parties as mentioned in the report to cooperate fully with the Government of Lebanon, the Security Council and the Secretary-General to achieve this goal.

"The Security Council reaffirms its support to the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy in their efforts and dedication to facilitate and assist in the implementation of all provisions of resolutions 1559 (2004) and 1680 (2006).

"The Security Council acknowledges the Secretary-General's intention to revert to the Council in his next report on implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) and looks forward to his further recommendations on the relevant outstanding issues."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2006/47.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5560

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5560th meeting

Tuesday, 31 October 2006, 11.35 a.m.
New York

President	Mr. Oshima	(Japan)
Members	Argentina	Mr. García Moritán
	China	Mr. Li Kexin
	Congo	Mr. Biabaroh-Boma
	Denmark	Mr. Faaborg-Andersen
	France	Mr. Lacroix
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Greece	Mrs. Papadopoulou
	Peru	Mr. Chávez
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Qahtani
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lepilinskiy
	Slovakia	Mr. Mlynár
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Pierce
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mrs. Taj
	United States of America	Mr. Brencick

Agenda

The situation concerning Western Sahara

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2006/817)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

06-59410 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 11.35 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning Western Sahara

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2006/817)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2006/817, containing the report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/2006/850, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by France, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, China, Congo, Denmark, France, Ghana, Greece, Japan, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1720 (2006).

I shall now call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mr. Brencick (United States of America): The United States has voted in favour of this resolution, but with the understanding that all parties will use the next six months to aggressively negotiate a mutually acceptable solution that brings peace, stability and economic prosperity to the region in a manner consistent with the principle of self-determination for the people of Western Sahara.

The United States remains concerned that the Western Sahara conflict has impeded regional integration and development for the past 30 years. A lasting resolution is long overdue. Unresolved, this humanitarian crisis leaves the Sahrawi people with a bleak and uncertain future. Further deterioration has the potential to worsen their hardship and could threaten political and economic progress in Algeria and Morocco as well.

While we cannot impose a solution, we can call on all parties to engage the United Nations and each other in a spirit of flexibility and compromise. In particular, we urge Morocco to move quickly to fulfil its many promises to submit a comprehensive and credible autonomy proposal for the Western Sahara. We also urge Morocco to engage seriously in discussions with all Sahrawi people, including the Polisario. These discussions, without a predetermined agenda, could form the basis for a new, United Nations-led negotiating process.

Our hope is based on the faith that all parties will exert the leadership and willingness necessary to improve their collective future and solve this dispute. The United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) is not a viable alternative to a permanent solution, and we, therefore, call on Morocco, Algeria and the Polisario to move beyond rhetoric to the serious work needed for the resolution of this conflict. In practical terms, we also call on the Secretary-General to examine the mechanisms and timetable for the dismantlement of MINURSO, should MINURSO continue to prove ineffective in fulfilling its mandate or the concerned parties prove unable to make substantial progress towards a political solution.

Mr. Lacroix (France) (*spoke in French*): France voted in favour of the additional extension for six months of the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). The United Nations Secretary-General has underscored the vital role of the presence of MINURSO for the continued ceasefire in Western Sahara.

France would once again state its wish that the next few months should be used profitably to break the impasse. No one can be happy about this impasse, and there is a need to establish a mutually acceptable

political agreement within the United Nations framework.

France has noted with interest the intention of the Kingdom of Morocco, noted in the report of the Secretary-General, to present some proposals over the next few months. This is an encouraging development that, we hope, will make it possible to move forward.

France, once again, would reaffirm its support for the activities of the Secretary-General and the work of his Personal Envoy.

Ms. Pierce (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom has voted in favour of the resolution adopted by the Council to renew the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) for a further six months. As the resolution was a technical roll-over of the mandate, I would like to set out aspects of the situation that the United Kingdom considers to be important.

Firstly, the United Kingdom thanks the United Nations Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy, Mr. van Walsum, for their efforts to find a way forward on this dispute.

The United Kingdom noted references in the report of the Secretary-General about the human rights situation. The United Kingdom believes we should continue to monitor the protection of human rights in the region, while working to move beyond the current impasse.

MINURSO has continued to play a stabilizing role in the region. However, no United Nations peacekeeping mandate should be regarded as open-ended. After the renewal of MINURSO's mandate in April of this year, we had hoped that there would be steps forward on this issue and that we would not require a purely technical roll-over at this meeting.

I would like to reiterate the United Kingdom's desire to see progress in the next six months, beyond the current impasse.

I would like to underline again the United Kingdom's position that the only solution to this issue has to be mutually acceptable and provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, in line with United Nations requirements as set out in previous Security Council resolutions.

The President: The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5561

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5561 st meeting

Wednesday, 1 November 2006, 4 p.m.

New York

President	Mr. Voto-Bernales	(Peru)
Members	Argentina	Mr. Mayoral
	China	Mr. Liu Zhenmin
	Congo	Mr. Ikouebe
	Denmark	Ms. Løj
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Nana Effah-Apenteng
	Greece	Mrs. Telalian
	Japan	Mr. Oshima
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Qahtani
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Emyr Jones Parry
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Manongi
	United States of America	Mr. Bolton

Agenda

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Tenth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2006/821)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

06-59659 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): As this is the first meeting of the Security Council for the month of November, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to His Excellency Mr. Kenzo Oshima, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, for his service as President of the Security Council for the month of October 2006. I am sure I speak for all members of the Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Oshima for the great diplomatic skill with which he conducted the Council's business last month.

I would also like to congratulate the Japanese delegation on the diverse and fruitful work carried out during its presidency. Many thanks, Ambassador Oshima.

Statement by the President

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to say a few words as I take up this important post. Peru is very honoured to assume the presidency of the Security Council for the month of November. As I assume this important responsibility, I would first like to affirm the commitment of the Government of Peru to working in a constructive and responsible manner in order, effectively and in a timely manner, to address the various issues before the Council.

Peru's commitment to the United Nations system, its organs and its areas of responsibility is a constant feature of its foreign policy. My country is a founding Member of the United Nations. Throughout the Organization's 61 years of existence, we have supported its efforts to tackle the many challenges involved in the maintenance of international peace and security. Eminent Peruvians have presided over the General Assembly and the International Court of Justice and have served as Secretary-General. They exemplify my country's commitment to the work of our Organization.

Peru is a democratic and multicultural nation that has been shaping its identity through the interplay and integration of the contributions of our indigenous culture with other cultures from diverse parts of the world. At the start of a new century, my country is focusing its efforts on consolidating its socio-economic development. That involves efficient integration with the world's various areas and regions. Peru is committed to constructively contributing towards the strengthening of global processes and, in particular, to promoting the peaceful settlement of disputes and problems that affect international peace and security. We were honoured by the international community's recognition of that commitment when last year Peru was elected as a non-permanent member of the Security Council.

Throughout the year, we have been delivering on our promises by working with all of the countries represented in the Council. This month our responsibility will be even greater. But I am convinced that, with the cooperation of all delegations and the Secretariat, we will be able to carry out this important task in the best possible manner.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Tenth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2006/821)

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Côte d'Ivoire, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

On behalf of the members of the Security Council, I extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Youssouf Bakayoko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Youssouf Bakayoko (Côte d'Ivoire) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in

accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2006/821, which contains the tenth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/2006/854, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Council to document S/2006/829, which contains a letter dated 18 October 2006 from the Congo addressed to the President of the Security Council.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution (S/2006/854) before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, China, Congo, Denmark, France, Ghana, Greece, Japan, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1721 (2006).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.